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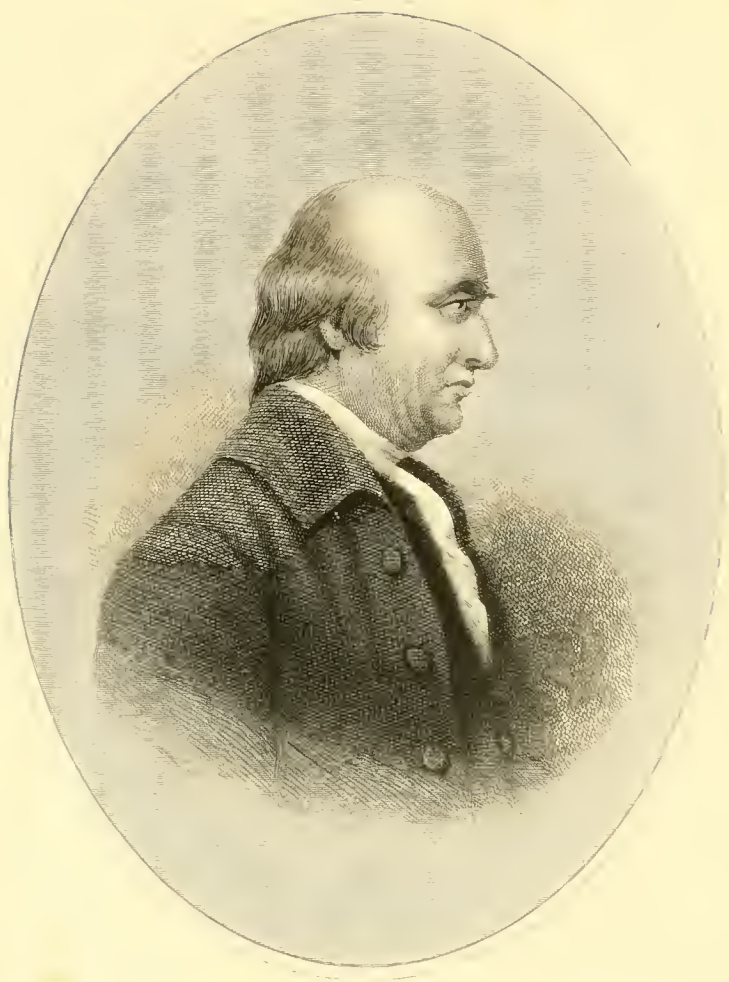
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Lewis Morris

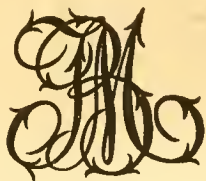
Letters and Manuscripts

of all of the

Signers of the Declaration of Independence,

extracted from

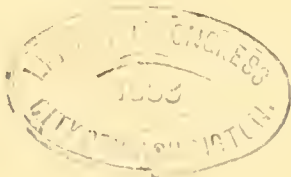
ONE OF THE SEVENTEEN COMPLETE SETS WHICH HAVE
BEEN FORMED.



NOTE.—Printed in January, 1871, in one of the deferred Numbers of the Historical Magazine. Improvements and additions have since been made to the Papers. Several typographical errors will be noticed. One hundred copies in this form, to accompany a portrait of LEWIS MORRIS, from a private plate.

NEW YORK :

July, 1871.



THE HISTORICAL MAGAZINE.

Vol. IV. SECOND SERIES.]

NOVEMBER, 1868.

No. 5.

This number of the Historical Magazine has been edited by Colonel Theodorus Bailey Myers, of New York City.

H. B. D.

I.—DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

INTRODUCTORY.

"With what grandeur, with what enthusiasm, should I not speak of those generous men who erected this grand edifice by their patience, their wisdom, and their courage: Hancock, Franklin, the two Adamses, were the greatest actors in this affecting scene; but they were not the only ones. Posterity shall know them, all. Their honored names shall be transmitted to it by a happier pen than mine. Brass and marble shall show them to remotest ages. In beholding them shall the friend of freedom feel his heart palpitate with joy—feel his eyes float in delicious tears. Under the bust of one of them has been written, '*He wrested thunder from heaven, and the sceptre from tyrants.*' Of the last words of this analogy shall all of them partake.—ABBE KAYSAL."

The letters and manuscripts which follow, form, together, a complete set of the autographs of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, constituting one of the fourteen known to exist. For more than half a century, these collections have attracted the attention and afforded an agreeable pastime for the leisure hours of a number of gentlemen, scattered throughout the United States; and, in addition to the sets above alluded to, it is known that there are a large number which lack but few names of completeness.

To those who do not sympathize in this antiquarian pursuit, it may appear singular that men should devote so much of their time and incur the heavy attendant outlay in collecting a number of old pieces of paper; but the enthusiasm of a collector is a sentiment which cannot be described, but must be experienced to be realized. It is a work which is performed in private, and, like other revels in the charnel-house of Time, is carried on in the witching hour of night, for its laborers are generally those engaged in other avocations, which absorb the ordinary working hours. If it ever manifests itself in public, it is in the pursuit of material, when a sale of Autograph Letters and Manuscripts calls together the collectors or their agents, in an auction-room, in competition; and then it is a matter of amusement to spectators, to witness the extent to which a mania will carry them, overlooking that in some other collection, perhaps that of greenbacks, they are equally enthusiastic.

The primary object to be attained, is a collection of something written by every Signer; and, owing to the rarity of some of the specimens, this, at this time, is almost an impossibility, as the number of complete sets in existence, after so many years research, attests. After this is accomplished, the object of the collector is to improve his set, which is done according to his taste or abilities. All collectors seek to complete a set of "A. L. S." (*autograph letters signed*) which forms the highest class of specimens, in both rarity and value; and, in this form, some of the names rarely if ever are to be found; while, in other cases, autograph letters occur, left unsigned as a precaution by the writer in time of War. Next to this come "L. S."

(*letters signed*) which are more common, because so many official persons availed themselves, then, as now, of the services of an amanuensis. The third class are "A. D. S." (*autograph documents signed*) which with "D. S." (*documents signed*) are not esteemed so highly, but, like the letters, vary in value, according to subject, and date, and similarity of signature to that attached to the Declaration. Some collectors confine their efforts to the points of uniformity in size, desiring all folio or all quarto specimens; while others make the period the test, and desire the date of all their specimens to be Revolutionary.

The collection of which copies are annexed, speaks for itself. It was made without reference to size; but the object has been, as far as possible, to obtain papers of historical interest. Many specimens have been exchanged or rejected; and many still remain, which, if opportunity offers, will be hereafter improved. All of them have been repaired, without mutilation, and inlaid by Treut, in drawing-paper, of large folio size; and illustrated with portraits, views, caricatures, and official and other documents, arms of States, Colonial money and newspapers, etc., etc., illustrative of the period, all similarly inlaid or mounted, and on separate sheets, to the number, at this time, of several hundred, the whole to constitute three folio volumes for the Northern, Middle, and Southern States, respectively.

The copy of the Declaration of Independence annexed, is one of thirteen signed by the President and Secretary of the Congress. It was for many years the property of a gentleman in the South, from whom the Collector procured it, like the other specimens, without "making a raid" or incurring an obligation which he did not attempt to acquit.

In complying with a request to furnish copies of a collection—which, originating in an appreciation of the patriotism of the Signers and gratitude for his share of the result of their labors, has been a source of amusement and pleasant occupation for a number of years—he wishes to disclaim any intention of holding up to the reader as of superior excellence; but feels it a duty to place in more permanent form, some papers of interest, never before printed, and to induce other Collectors possessing, for many of the names, those of greater value, to do the same.

I.—THE DECLARATION.

[From one of the thirteen original copies of the Declaration signed by President and Secretary of Congress and sent to the States.]

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE

THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and

of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to constitute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operations till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offenses;

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies;

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the forms of our governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our

coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in our attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind—enemies in war—in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states: that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things

which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

JOHN HANCOCK.

GEORGIA	{ Button Gwinnett Lyman Hall George Walton
NORTH CAROLINA	{ W ^m Hooper Joseph Hewes John Penn
SOUTH CAROLINA	{ Edward Rutledge Thos Heyward Jun ^r Thomas Lynch jun ^r Arthur Middleton
MARYLAND	{ Samuel Chase W ^m Paca Tho ^s Stone Charles Carroll, of Car- rollton
VIRGINIA	{ George Wythe Richard Henry Lee Th ^s Jefferson Benj ^a Harrison Tho ^s Nelson jr Francis Lightfoot Lee Carter Braxton
PENNSYLVANIA	{ Rob ^t Morris Benjamin Rush Benja Franklin John Morton Geo Clymer Ja ^s Smith Geo Taylor James Wilson Geo Ross
DELAWARE	{ Caesar Rodney Geo Read
NEW YORK	{ W ^m Floyd Phil Livingston Fran ^s Lewis Lewis Morris
NEW JERSEY.	{ Rich ^d Stockton Jno Witherspoon Fra ^s Hopkinson John Hart Abra Clark
NEW HAMPSHIRE	{ Josiah Bartlett W ^m Whipple Matthew Thornton

MASSACHUSETTS BAY	{ Sam ^l Adams John Adams Rob ^t Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry
RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE & ^o	{ Step Hopkins William Ellery
CONNECTICUT	{ Roger Sherman Sam ^l Huntington W ^m Williams Oliver Wolcott

IN CONGRESS. JANUARY 18, 1777
ORDERED

THAT an authenticated Copy of the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCY with the Names of the MEMBERS of CONGRESS subscribing the same be sent to each of the UNITED STATES and that they be desired to have the same put on RECORD.

By Order of CONGRESS
JOHN HANCOCK, President

a True Copy
JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t

Attest
CHAS THOMSON, Sec^y

BALTIMORE in MARYLAND: Printed by MARY
KATHARINE GODDARD.

II.—THE CONGRESS.

I.—A COMMISSION OF THE CONGRESS.

IN CONGRESS
THE DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay Rhode Island Connecticut New York New Jersey Pennsylvania the Counties of New Castle Kent and Sussex in Delaware Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina and Georgia

To Andrew Porter Gentleman

We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism Valour Conduct and Fidelity Do by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be first Lieutenant in Capt Jesse Cardens Company of the Maryland forces in the Army of the United States raised for the Defence of American Liberty and repelling every hostile invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of first Lieutenant by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command to be Obedient to your Orders as first

Lieutenant. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States or Committee of Congress for that Purpose appointed or Commander in Chief for the time being of the Army of the United States or any other your superior Officer according to the Rules and Discipline of War in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress

Dated at Philadelphia the 10th day of December Seventeen hundred and Seventy Six

By order of the Congress
Attest JOHN HANCOCK, President
CHAS THOMSON, Sec^y

II.—RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONGRESS.

IN CONGRESS July 3^d 1776

Congress took into consideration the letter from the Convention of New Jersey, Whereupon Resolved that the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania be requested to send as many of the Troops of their Colony as they can spare to Monmouth County in New Jersey to the assistance of the Inhabitants of that Colony and to be subject to the Orders of the Commander in Chief; the said Troops to be allowed the same pay and rations as the Troops in the service of the Continent from the time of their march until they return

Extract from the Minutes

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec^y
By order of Congress
JOHN HANCOCK Pres^t

In Congress October 22^d 1776

Resolved, That the Commissioners going to the Court of France be directed to procure from the Court at the expense of these United States either by purchase or loan eight line of battle ships of seventy four and sixty four guns, well manned and fitted in every respect for service, That as these ships may be useful in proportion to the quickness with which they reach North America the Commissioners be directed to expedite the negotiation with all possible diligence

By order of Congress
Attest JOHN HANCOCK Presid^t
CHAS THOMSON Sec^y

III.—RESOLUTION OF MARINE COMMITTEE.

IN MARINE COMMITTEE 15th January 1777

Ordered that Messrs Purveyance & Stewart the Continental Marine Agents in the State of Maryland be directed to proceed immediately to provide Timber for building the two thirty six gun Frigates ordered to be built in the said State, and to proceed in other respects to provide materials for the completion of said Frigates.

The particular
Dimensions shall be
delivered you

JOHN HANCOCK
RICHARD HENRY LEE
WM WHIPPLE

IV.—THE SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS.

PHILA. June 9. 1779.

SIR

The voyage of the vessel that carries this being altered, and she being ordered to touch at Martinique & perhaps to return from thence I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter and bill which I had prepared for Messrs. Curson & Gouverneur and requesting the favour, if you can procure the articles, to negotiate the bill & send me the articles and in that case you may suppress the letter to Messrs. Curson & Co. The linen I am in great want of. If you cannot get good black sattin you may substitute plumb coloured mantua instead thereof.

The armies have taken the field, Clinton is directing his force up the North River, where it is expected he will meet with a warm reception. Our forts in the highlands are in good repair, McDougal is on the east and Genl Washington on the west side of Hudson river to support them. We have had various rumours of a victory gained by our troops in South Carolina, but nothing certain is yet come to Congress.

I am

Sir

Your obed : humble serv^t

CHAS. THOMSON

P.S. If you cannot conveniently procure the articles, you will please to enclose the bill in the letter and forward them as directed.

Addressed

WILLIAM BINGHAM Esq^r in Martinique.

III.—THE STATES.

I.—NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1.—*Joshiah Bartlett.*

Born at Amesbury, Mass., in November, 1729, and was a successful medical practitioner, before his entrance into public life, in which he was one of the earliest opponents of the asserted rights of the Crown, although holding a Magistrate's Commission and the command of a Regiment of Militia, under the Royal Governor. In 1765, he was a

Member of the Provincial Legislature, and served in the first Continental Congress; and his signature to the Declaration, follows Hancock's. He was Chief-justice of the New Hampshire Common Pleas, in 1739, and, subsequently, a Judge of her Supreme Court. Elected a Senator of the United States, on the adoption of the State Constitution, in 1787, he preferred his position of President of his State; and, in 1793, was elected her first Governor, under the revised Constitution, but soon abandoned office for the retirement of private life. He died on the nineteenth of May, 1795, in his sixty-sixth year.

PHILADELPHIA, Septembr 2^d 1776

MY DEAR SIR

I have Rec^d yours of the 14th ulto with the acts of our Legislature inclosed, for which I thank you as it gives me particular satisfaction to be informed of the situation of affairs in our own State. I am fully sensible of the great difficulties we labor under by the soldiers being enlisted for such short periods, and that it would have been much better had they at first Rec^d a good bounty & been enlisted to serve during the war. But you may recollect the many and to appearance almost insuperable Difficulties that then lay in our way, no money, no magazines of provisions, no military stores, no Government, in short when I look back and consider our situation about 15 months ago, in stead of wondering that we are in no better situation than at present I am surprized we are in so good; who of us at that time expected that the infatuation of Britain would have forced us to the State we now are in, as circumstances now are I think we ought by all means to be provided with a well Disciplined army to serve during the war, and that they ought to be raised as soon as possible. I am Glad to hear that our powder mill is ready to be set going: pray take particular care that the powder is good; a Considerable Quantity made by one of the mills in this State appears not to have above half the force of good powder and does not catch quick. The danger from bad powder in an engagement is so great that the Congress have ordered that no powder shall be sent to the Army but such as have been well tried & approved by inspectors appointed for the purpose and have Recommended it to the Several Legislatures to appoint inspectors to prove all the powder that is made or imported into their respective States; a copy I will enclose if I can procure one before the post sets off, I will also enclose the order of Congress concerning wounded & maimed soldiers & seamen.

The affairs at New York seem at present almost wholly to engross our attention; we have not had the full of the particulars of the action of the 27 ulto on Long Island from the General, but by the best accounts we have obtained it appears that our people were decoyed & surrounded by the main Body of the Enemy

and obliged to fight their way thro' or surrender prisoners. It seems there must have been some very great neglect either in not sending out proper guards & parties to gain intelligence or they not doing their Duty. General Sullivan & Lord Stirling are prisoners & I believe 6 or 700 others, the consequence has been the Evacuation of Long Island & Governors Island, of both which the Enemy are now in possession, a very unfortunate beginning of the Campaign there. However it is not irreparable and I hope it will make both officers & soldiers more careful to keep proper Guards & not suffer themselves to be taken by surprize any more.

After writing the above General Sullivan came to my lodgings in the City and by his accounts the affair of Long Island was much as I had heard. He says he has two verbal messages from Lord Howe which he is permitted on his parole to come to Congress to propose, one is the exchange of himself & Lord Stirling for Genl Prescott & McDonald, the other is to propose a meeting with some of the Members of Congress (as private Gentlemen for he cant acknowledge any such body as Congress) to see if they cant agree on some proposition for an accommodation without further Bloodshed and says he will meet at almost any place for the purpose. These are but verbal messages & I can easily see great difficulties that may arise let the Congress accept or refuse the proposed Conference. What the Congress will do is at present uncertain but hope they will be directed by the Supreme Disposer of all Events, to do in this and every other affair before them what will be most Conducive to the Safety & Happiness of these American States.

So wishes your

friend & most obedient

Humble Serv^t

JOSIAH BARTLETT

Genl FOLSOM.

EXETER November 4th 1779

MY DEAR SIR

While at Hartford (from whence I returned the 2^d Inst) I Rec^d your favor of the 12th ulto and since my return I Rec^d yours of the latter End of September & 5th of October and in those letters I Rec^d the Copies of G^l Burgoynes private Letters to the Secretary of State sundry pamphlet of the Journals of Congress with newspapers &c &c for which I am much obliged to you. The General Court have been sitting about a fortnight, have resolved to lay in our Claims to the New Hampshire Grants West of Connecticut River, and appointed Mr J. Livermore in conjunction with our Delegates in Congress to appear assert and prosecute our Rights and an act is now Drafting to empower

Congress to take up the matter agreeable to their Resolves for that purpose. A vote has passed empowering you & Mr Woolbry Langdon to Represent the State in Congress till Relieved or Recalled a Copy of which I suppose will besent by the President. Gen Whipple & Genl Folsom are appointed Delegates but whether either of them will accept is at present uncertain, I Believe Genl Folsom will accept and perhaps Mr Whipple may be prevailed on to attend next Spring if necessary. Col Samuel Folsom & Col Moses Nichols are appointed to repair to the Army & Endeavor to reinlist our Soldiers During the war whose times are now Expiring. The G^t Court seems to be of opinion that no more taxes can be raised by this State till there is a new proportion amongst the Several Towns, and are about sending out precepts for that purpose. The Requisition of Congress for our proportion of 15 millions monthly has not yet been acted upon but from what I can at present learn am in hopes it will be raised tho not so soon as is Desired.

The result of our meeting at Hartford will come to Congress before this reaches you. Please to inform me what are the sentiments of Congress Relative to the measures proposed & whether there is a probability of the Several States coming into those measures. I well knew the Difficulties of Regulations of prices but unless something is soon Done to Stop the Depreciation of Currency it will soon cease to be a circulating medium and the Distress and Dangers that will follow are obvious to Every man of Common Sense and what better measure can be taken to keep off so Dangerous a Situation? Taxes alone we find by fatal Experience will not, and if the Taxes are Collected and the money will not purchase the necessities for the army what will it avail. If anything better can be adopted than we have proposed I shall Cheerfully agree to it, if not is it not best to try regulations once more on the proposed plan until the opposition Expected from those large Taxes begin to take Effect? if that alone will Relieve us the Regulations will of course be at an End when people cannot get so much for their articles as the stipulated prices.

The Committee of Safety in the last Recess of the General Court had Rec^d information that some persons in this State & the State of Massachusetts were Concerned in Carrying on a Correspondence with the Enemy by means of a Salt Works near Cape Cod and that one or two of the Refugees were in this State secreted that Came out that way. The Committee ordered Robert Smith to take up Sundry suspected persons and enjoined ourselves to Secrecy, the matter however got to the ears of the

parties and such proof was made that it was conveyed to them by Col S H——t who you know has lately been of that Committee that the others of the Committee ordered him not to meet with us til the matter was cleared up or the sitting of the General Court, the Court since their sitting have taken up the matter and after a full hearing and the Evidences on both Sides produced the Assembly have expelled him their House, as I am informed, nem con

We have for sometime had various rumors of the success of the French Fleet to the Southward but no certain intelligence to be depended on The enemy's leaving Rhode Island and the Ports up the North River shew their apprehensions. There is a report here that the British Troops have left Penobscot and from several circumstances I apt to believe it true tho there is no certain accounts come to hand.

I am, Respectfully yours

J. BARTLETT.

Nov 6th Mr Jesse Johnson & Dr Hedges are in Town and were last Evening with the President Mr Dudley & myself, &c.

Col N PEABODY,

(Endorsed)

Colo Bartlett Nov 4th 79

Rec^d — 22 Do.

2.—William Whipple.

Born at Kittery, in Maine, in 1730, and was a neighbor of Sir William Pepperell, and drank in, as a boy, the inspirations of the glory of the capture of Louisburg by the New England Militia. In his youth, he followed the sea; but, at twenty-nine, became a merchant in Portsmouth, N. H. When the struggle for freedom took place, his neighbors having discovered his merits, the cabin-boy was successively a Member of the Provincial Congress of 1775, one of the Committee of Safety, and, in 1776, a Delegate to the Continental Congress; and became a prominent member of the Marine Committee, which founded the first Navy. He served with distinction at Saratoga, as a General Officer, and was entrusted with the charge of the Convention troops, after Burgoyne's surrender. He also served with General Sullivan, in Rhode Island. He held many responsible positions; and died in harness, on the twenty-eighth day of November, 1785, in his fifty-sixth year. The block-house in which he resided at Portsmouth, fortified against the Indians, was torn down a few years since.

PHILADELPHIA 20th June 1779

MY DEAR SIR

You may well think it strange that we are so long without intelligence from Europe a circumstance that I cannot acc^t for unless we may suppose there has been many miscarriages.

Your distress on account of the Currency is not to be wondered at, it is really an object of great concern & demands the most serious and diligent attention, three days in the week are devoted to that business & I hope a bill will soon make its appearance that will dispel the gloom

that now overspreads the countenances of America Friends. You ask where Gen^l W and his army is. I can only answer that they are in the Neighborhood of Indsons River; the movements of the Enemy on that River and of our army in consequence, you undoubtedly have a history of, before this time. It is surprising that we have no authentic intelligence from S Carolina since the 5th May, when undoubtedly very important events have taken place there, since that date, the reports (which are many) all agree that a general action has happened & that we have gained a complete victory the particulars are hourly expected perhaps I may have the satisfaction of inclosing them in this letter.

I believe the drawing of the lottery is nearly finished but my attention has been so much engaged in other matters that I have not tho^t lately of making inquiry. I suppose the General Assembly are now sitting & I hope something will be done respecting the Grants. New York are continually pressing to have that business drawn to a conclusion, and insists that there shall not be a separte state, but will acquiesce in any other mode of settling the dispute. I think it of importance that N H sho^d lay in her claim and send some person here well informed, to support the claim. sho^d that country be added to N Y she will be a powerful and I am apprehensive a troublesome neighbor. I know you must have important business before you, but this is an object of such magnitude as in my humble opinion demands the earliest attention. I have been for a long time daily expecting a colleague but am still without one; you are not acquainted with the disadvantages I must necessarily labor under for want of assistance. When I left home it was my intention to return in May but as I am determined never to turn my back upon difficulties I have no objection to continue here till those we have now to encounter are conquered but must confess I think it hard that I cannot have the aid of a Colleague—both the Lee's have taken leave of Congress, the *Dominion* now makes a very indifferent figure, but I understand there are some appointments which (when they arrive) will place that State in a more respectable point of light. It is not an agreeable thing to see a state divided, that has never yet been the case with N H, but will it not be the case when the two last chosen gentlemen appear together? Unanimity is ever desirable in public councils but never more necessary than at the present day, besides the disadvantages to the public it must be very disagreeable to any Gent^l to be opposed to his Colleague in office. I think these considerations ought to have some influence in the choice of public characters

22^d Colo Peabody arrived last evening. I find by him that I am not mistaken in my conjecture respecting him and his intended Collague, cannot something be done to prevent the evils that may be the consequence of a division of sentiment

I am happy to hear you have such promising prospects of a plentiful Harvest, from all accounts there never was so great an appearance of plenty in this country as the present season affords. Will not these distinguished marks of the favour of Heaven dispel our Gloom and animate us to cooperate in the promotion of our Country, happiness & in that way show our gratitude to divine Beneficence.

The Boston & Confederacy have sent in here a ship of 24 guns and 95 men, a private cruising ship & it is reported this morn'g they have taken the Delaware & destroy'd another ship of war but this wants confirmation. I hope shortly to have it in my power to give you such information as will tend to dispel the clouds that seem at present to interrupt your happiness, in the mean time be assured that I am,

Your very sincere
Friend & Obed^t

W. W.

Hon^{ble}

JOSIAH BARTLETT Esq^r
KINGSTON, New Hampshire
[Endorsed by Bartlett]

Whipple 20th & 22^d June 1779.

PORTSMTH 9th Sept 1776

MY DEAR BRO^r

I have this moment heard of this opportunity by Chadborne who is just going out of town that I have time to say but very little. I arrived here y^e 30th ulto & shall set out again in about 4 or 6 weeks, there has been some skirmishes between our Troops & the Enemy at York but the acct^s are so various that there is no depending on them, the accounts from abroad concerning the disposition of France towards us are very favorable, we have nothing to do but keep our Ground this year, and all's our own, even if we sho^d loose some ground it will be of no great consequence, the last advice from the Northern Army is much more favorable than they were some time ago, so I hope you will be more at ease than you have been for some time past. I can hardly flatter myself that I shall have the pleasure of seeing but hopes shall hear very particularly from you before I return to my Winter quarters

Adieu

W. WHIPPLE

TO JOSEPH WHIPPLE Esq^r
[Endorsed.]

W. W. PORTSM Sept 9th 1776
rec^d in Dartmouth

I.—Matthew Thornton.

Born in Ireland, in 1714, and accompanied his parents in their emigration to Worcester, Mass. He was liberally educated and a prominent physician. He accompanied Sir William Pepperell's successful Louisburg expedition, as a Surgeon; and, on his return, the Royal Governor, Wentworth, gave him the command of a Militia Regiment, and made him a Justice of the Peace, both coveted positions. When Governor Wentworth abdicated, Thornton's great popularity led to his elevation, as his successor; and he was made Speaker of the House, in the Provincial Congress, a Judge of the Superior Court, and a Delegate to the Continental Congress. In 1782, he retired from public life, which held open a bright vista of usefulness at Exeter. He died at Newburyport, on the twenty-fourth of June, 1803, at the age of eighty-nine. His grand-son, Captain Thornton, of the Navy, was second officer of the *Kersage*, in her engagement with the *Alabama*. His letters are of great rarity, and his signature generally occurs to business papers.

An autograph document, being a conveyance by James Lindsay of Londonderry in the Province of New Hampshire, yeoman, to William Eayrs of the same Town & Province yeoman in consideration of Ten Pounds Lawful Money, of certain premises in Londonderry; dated nineteenth day of January A. D., 1767, drawn and witnessed by & acknowledged before Matthew Thornton Justice of the Peace.

Also another document signed, dated Jan. 20th 1797, likewise of no interest except as a specimen of his signature. (Both these to be replaced by letters when practicable.)

II.—MASSACHUSETTS.

Credentials.

In Provincial Congress, Cambridge,
December 5th 1774

Province
of the
Massachusetts
Bay

Resolved

That the proceedings of the American Continental Congress held at Philadelphia on the 5th of September last and reported by the hon^{ble} Delegates from this Colony, have with the deliberation due to their high importance, been considered by us, and the American Bill of Rights therein contained appears to be formed with the greatest ability and judgment, to be founded on the immutable Law of Nature and Reason, the principles of the English Constitution and respective Charters and Constitutions of the Colonies, and to be worthy of their most vigorous support as essentially necessary

to Liberty. Likewise the ruinous and iniquitous measures which in violation of these *Rights*, at present convulse and threaten destruction to America, appear to be clearly pointed out and judicious plans adopted for defeating them.

Resolved, that the most grateful acknowledgements are due to the truly honorable and patriotic Members of the Continental Congress for their wise and able exertions, in the cause of American liberty and this Congress in their own names and in behalf of this Colony do hereby with the utmost sincerity express the same. Resolved that the Hon John Hancock, Hon Thomas Cushing Esqr, Mr Samuel Adams, John Adams & Robert Treat Paine Esqrs or any three of them be, and they hereby are appointed and authorized to represent this Colony on the Tenth of May next or sooner if necessary at the American Congress to be held at Philadelphia with full power with the Delegates from the other American Colonies to concert agree upon direct and order such further measures as shall to them appear to be the best calculated for the recovery and establishment of American Rights and Liberty and for restoring her wrong between Great Britain and the Colonies.

A true extract from the Minutes ———

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Secretary

1.—*John Hancock,*

Born at Quincy, Massachusetts, to 1737, son of the Rev. John Hancock, an orphan at seven years of age: at seventeen, after graduating at Harvard, he entered the warehouse of his uncle Thomas, from whom he inherited his fortune and his home on Boston Common, lately destroyed. He visited England in 1760 and witnessed the coronation of George III., to whom he was destined to afford so much annoyance. At the age of twenty-six he inherited a large estate from his uncle and soon entered political life as a Representative in the Provincial Assembly of 1766. As the first President of Congress his bold signature was appended to the Declaration, and stood alone with the Secretary's at the foot of its first publication, of which a copy precedes this notice. He was the first State Governor elected, and presided over the affairs of Massachusetts for several terms with signal ability, and continued in active life up to his death on the eighth of October, 1793. The story of his patriotic career is too familiar to justify repetition.

An official document signed as President of Congress, dated April 3, 1776.

PHILADELPHIA, June 1th 1776

GENTLEMEN

The Congress have this Day received advices and are fully convinced, that it is the design of General Howe to make an attack upon the City of New York as soon as possible. The attack they have Reason to believe will be made within ten Days. I am therefore most earnestly to request you, by order of Congress, to call forth your Militia as requested in my Letter of

the 4th Inst and to forward them with all Dispatch to the City of New York; and that you direct them to march in Companies, or in any other way that will hasten their arrival there.

The important Day is at hand that will decide, not only the Fate of the City of New York but in all probability the whole Continent. On such an Occasion there is no necessity to use Argument with Americans. Their feelings, I well know, will prompt them to their duty, and the Sacredness of the Cause urge them to the Field.

The greatest Exertions of Vigour & Expedition are requisite to prevent our Enemies from getting possession of that Town, I would therefore again most earnestly request you, in the name and by the Authority of Congress to employ every mode in your power to send forward the Militia agreeably to the Requisition of Congress, and that you will do it with all the Dispatch which the infinite importance of the Cause demands

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen

Your most obed^t &

Very Humble Servt

JOHN HANCOCK, Prest

Honble Convention of New Jersey

PHILADELPHIA July 15 1776

GENTLEMEN,

The article of lead being so essentially necessary, and the Propriety of every Colony being furnished with it so evident that the Council of Safety of this Colony recommended to the Inhabitants to spare the Lead Weights from their Windows and the Lead from their Houses: by which means they have been furnished with a considerable quantity which has been run into Ball, and part of which the Council of Safety here have willingly spared, and is now on the way to the Jerseys. But as under the present Exigency, that quantity is far short of what is wanted for the Army in New Jersey and every Method should be used to furnish it, I have it therefore in charge from Congress, most earnestly to request you to supply the Flying Camp and Militia with all the Lead in your Possession, or that you can possibly procure.

The Exigency of our Affairs will not admit the Least Delay; and I am convinced there is no necessity to use Arguments to induce you to an instant compliance with this Requisition

I am to inform you that as you have not enclosed to Congress Copies of Gen^l Washington's and Brigadier Gen^l Livingtons Letters no judgment can be found by Congress concerning the Contents of them and to request copies of them to be sent hither

Measures are taking in Pennsylvania &

Maryland for forming the Flying Camp; and in the mean time the associated Militia are marching in great numbers from Pennsylvania for the defence of New Jersey. Ammunition has been and will be supplied by this Congress for the defence of New Jersey. With regard to the pay of the Militia I am to acquaint you that Congress will observe the same Rule of Conduct towards New Jersey as towards other Colonies

Four tons of Powder are on the way to New Jersey, and a large number of Musket Cart-ridges well ball'd will this day be sent forward

I have the Honour to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedt &
& very hble servt

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t

Hon^{ble} Convention of New Jersey,

GENTLEMEN

Your Favour respecting the proper measures to be taken with your late Governor William Franklyn Esq came to hand on Saturday the 22^d Inst, But as the Congress did not sit on that Day I could not lay it before them till Monday

I now do myself the Honour of enclosing to you the Resolves of Congress, which they have this Day passed with regard to the Treatment of him. You will there perceive the Congress have directed him to be sent to Connecticut under a Guard

I shall write to Gov^r Trumbull to treat him as a Prisoner should he refuse to give his Parole in Writing

The other resolves herewith traasmitted are of such a nature that no arguments are necessary to enforce them You will be pleased to attend to them as soon as possible.

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen your most obedt

& very hble servt

JOHN HANCOCK, Pres^t

Hon^{ble} Convention of New Jersey

An official document signed as Governor of Massachusetts, dated July 1, 1781.

An autograph message to the Assembly of Mass., signed 'J. H.' dated Council Chamber Boston 18th Feby 1783.

2.—John Adams,

Born at Quincy, Massachusetts, on the thirtieth of October, 1735. After graduating, with honor, he was admitted to the Bar, in 1758, and became distinguished in his profession. He was a constant disturber of the tranquility of the viceroyal authority of Barnard, Hutchinson, and Gage. A Member of the Congress of 1774 and subsequent Congresses, Vice-President under Washington's Administration, and his successor as President; a member of Committee that

drafted the Declaration; from 1777 to 1788 (when he finally returned home) repeatedly a Foreign Minister; connected with every detail of the foundation of the Government and its administration, he left the scene of his usefulness, appropriately, on the anniversary of its birth, the fourth of July, 1826, in his ninety-second year, followed, in three successive generations, by men worthy to adorn his name and record his greatness.

BRAINTREE, NOV 28 1776

SIR

I had this moment between two and three o'clock the Honour of your Letter of this Days Date requesting my attendance on the Hon House of Representatives. Some particular circumstances render it inconvenient for me to Sett off this afternoon but tomorrow morning I will do myself the Honour of waiting on the Honorable House. Mean Time

I am your humble Servant

JOHN ADAMS

HON JAMES WARREN Esq

BALTIMORE Feb 20th 1777

D^r SIR

Yesterday I had the pleasure of yours of Jan 28. I am rejoiced to hear of the Measures taken by our State to raise their Battalions and to tax an hundred Thousand Pounds. Congress have been upon the subject of regulating the prices of Labour and Provisions, I shall inclose you what they have done. Are not these mere temporary expedients and palliative Remedies—He must aim at a radical cure. The success of our cause appears to me to depend entirely (under God) on our Supporting the Credit of our Currency. This must be done at all Events but cannot be done long by regulating Prices We must cease emitting, We must borrow and we must import it possible a Fund of Gold and Silver to redeem the Bills as they become payable. Pray write me your thoughts on this subject I wish I had time to enlarge,

The Hon JOSEPH PALMER Esqr

Braintree, Massa Bay,

To the Officers of the late American Army and Navy assembled on the 4th of July 1798 in the Society of the Cincinnati, of the State of New York

GENTLEMEN

Your respectful address has been presented to me by your Senators in Congress M^r North and M^r Lawrence, who are also Members of your Society

The interesting and critical situation of our Country, threatened as it is by a very powerful foreign Nation could not fail to command the attention of gentlemen of your character and habits of Life.

I am happy to find that your opinions coincide

* Original letter sent unsigned, as a precaution.

with mine upon all the cardinal points: that our essential rights as a free and Independent Nation are at every hazard to be maintained, that the Constitution of our country as established by the choice of the people is in every event to be defended against all foreign controul or interference: that invasion from abroad from whatever quarter is to be repelled by united and vigorous exertions, that our Government never ought to subscribe to national degradation, that the evils of war can bear no comparison with the sacrifice or abandonment of any of these great principles.

It has ever been a maxim with all sound republics, that to give way to injustice is the most flagrant act, and to submit to insult the most pernicious effect of cowardice, it is impossible therefore that (you) who fought the battles of our Revolution with so much reputation upon such principles should not dedicate your lives to the maintainance of them

JOHN ADAMS

Philadelphia, July 9th 1798.

3.—*Samuel Adams,*

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on the twenty-second of September, 1722. Possessing both influence and property; fearless in the assertion of what he believed to be right; and with the eloquence and talents to express his views, Mr. Adams was an early and powerful champion of the people. He was one of the foremost men of the Revolution, although less commemorated by posterity (it is hinted by the influence of hereditary hostility) in his native town than some of his cotemporaries. He represented Boston, in 1765, in her General Court, and, for forty years afterwards, held positions of honor and trust. One of the projectors of the plan of a General Congress, he served as an active and influential member, from 1774 to 1781. After holding the most distinguished positions, including those of President of the Senate, Lieutenant-governor, and, for successive terms, Governor of his native State, he died, at the mature age of eighty-two, on the third of October, 1803.

Boston Jan^y 31 1775

Sir

I received your kind letter some time ago, which should have been acknowledged before this time but I beg you would consider that our hands are full. Our "worthy citizen" Mr Paul Revere will explain to you the intelligence which we have just received from England. It puts me in mind of what I remember to have heard you observe, that we may all be soon under the necessity of keeping *Shooting Irons*. God grant that we may not be brought to extremity or otherwise prepare us for all events.

Mr Tudor has informed me that a report has prevailed in Philadelphia of a Fracas between Mr Cushing and myself at our late Provincial Congress, he showed me your letter; you may depend upon it there is not the least Foundation for the Report Any Difference between Mr. Cushing and me is of very little conse-

quence to the public cause. I take notice of it only as one of the many Falshoods which I know to have been propagated by the Enemies of America. It is also a Misrepresentation that the sect taken notice of for opening their Shops on our late Thanksgiving Day, was that of the People called Quakers. They were the Disciples of the late Mr Sanderman, who worship God here without the least Molestation according to their own manner, and are in no other Light disregarded here but as it is said they are in general avowed Friends of the Ministerial Measures. This is what I am told, for my own part I know but little or nothing about them. The Different denominations of Christians here (excepting those amongst them who Esponse the cause of our Enemies) are in perfect peace and Harmony, as I trust they always will be.

I have written this letter in very great Haste, while in the Committee of Correspondence and conclude with due Regard to your Spouse, and all friends

Yours affectionately
SAM ADAMS

Mr STEPHEN COLLINS.

Also official document signed as Governor, dated May 8th 1797

4.—*Robert Treat Paine,*

Born in Massachusetts, in 1731. After distinguishing himself in his course, at Harvard, he visited England; and on his return, entered the ministry, but soon left it for the legal profession, in which he attained a high position. He early took ground against the ministerial party, and from the time he entered the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, in 1774, as a legislator, a Judge, or a citizen, was equally useful and distinguished, until 1804, when he quitted public life. Judge Paine died in May, 1814, at the age of eighty-four.

Boston Dec^r 7th 1792

Sir

In July last I transferred 1800 Dolls 6 p c^t stock to the use of the United States to fill up my 12 shares in the Bank of the United States: there was then 3 m^o Intr^d due on the same. Please pay the same to Peter Roe Dalton Esq Cashier of the Branch Bank Boston for my use & oblige your most humble serv^t

R. T. PAINE

JOHN KEAN Esqr

Cashier of the Bank of the United States
Philadelphia

We certify that at the Supreme Judicial Court held at Worcester in and for the County of Worcester on Tuesday next preceeding the last Tuesday of April 1794 Isaac Cole & Burden Cole both of Spencer in the Same County Yeomen Were upon an Indictment against them for uttering and passing Four false and

Counterfeit Dollars convicted thereof by Verdict of a Jury and thereupon the said Burden was sentenced by said Court to be Confined to hard labour on Castle Island in the Harbour of Boston for the Term of Two Years from the 26th day of April A D 1794—Sentence against the said Isaac was suspended—and that Robert Cutler and Israel Hamilton both of Brookfield were the Informers and prosecutors of the said Burden and Isaac for the crime aforementioned—in which case the Law entitles the informers to a Reward of Fifteen Pounds

ROBERT TREAT PAINE	} Justices of said Court.
INCREASE SUMNER	
THOS DAWES JUN ^r	

5.—*Elbridge Gerry.*

Born at Marblehead, Massachusetts, on the seventeenth of July, 1744. His father, a merchant of means, educated him at Harvard, where he graduated with credit, in 1762. Entering into mercantile business, he acquired both reputation and property. One of the early opponents of the policy of the Ministry, he was an active member of the General Court, in 1773, and was returned to the first Provincial Congress. He was the friend of General Warren, its President, and is said to have shared his bed, the night before his death, at Bunker-hill. He was a Member of the Continental Congress, was Minister to France, and Governor of Massachusetts, and died suddenly on the twenty-third of November, 18th 4, while Vice-President of the United States, at the age of seventy, and was interred in the Congressional Cemetery, at Washington, under a monument erected by Congress to his memory. A son, Captain Gerry, of the Navy, was lost in command of the ill fated sloop-of-war *Albany*; and a grandson and namesake is a practicing lawyer in this city.

PHILADELPHIA 26th of Aug^t 1783

DEAR SIR

In compliance with your Request, I have made Enquiry about Col^d Lee. I find that he is in Virginia as far from this place on the one side as Atkinson is on the other, I shall therefore keep your Note until it can be sent by a Safe Conveyance or delivered to your order

The Court of Madrid has at length given a publick reception to M^r Carmichael, but he has not been presented in Expectation that M^r Jay who was then at Paris would repair to Madrid & in quality of Minister go thro' the Formalities of the Court

A Treaty of Commerce is ratified with Sweden & one is on ye Tapis with Denmark but the Emperor of Russia has acted cavalierly with Mr. Dana, who in his Turn has conducted with great Spirit, Address & Dignity

I wish you was present, as a Member of Decision is much wanted on ye New Hampshire Seat to form a Representation

I remain Sir in Haste your Friend & hum
Serv^t

E GERRY

Hon M^r PEABODY.

CAMBRIDGE 31st March 1801.

DEAR SIR,

Mr Sprague, a respectable merchant of Salem, who will present this, has a claim on the French Government, the circumstances of which he will communicate to you, for a considerable sum. the demand, it seems, has been established by an award, which was lodged with Major Mountflorenee, whilst chancellor of the consulate: & as Mr. Sprague has only a copy of the document, it will probably be requisite that he should recover the original. I know not with whom the consular papers are lodged, but have recommended his application to yourself, for information on this & any other point touching his claim, & for such assistance as may promote its recovery. I propose to write to you soon, & request you in the interim to present Mrs. Gerry's & my own & petitt sincere regards to Madame Villette, Mademois^e Charlotte & Charles, & to remember me generally to all our friends, being assured Dear Sir that

I remain your assured friend
& hum^t Ser^t

E GERRY

FULMAR SKIPWORTH Esq

III.—RHODE ISLAND.

1.—*Stephen Hopkins,*

Born at Scituate, R. I., on the seventh of March, 1707, his early years were passed in agricultural pursuits. In about the year 1731, he engaged in mercantile business in Providence, and was immediately elected to the Provincial Assembly, of which he remained for twenty years a member, and most of the time, Speaker. He was also a member of the Congresses of 1774, '5, '6, and Chief justice of the State. An early patriot, he enjoyed the public confidence; and when, as a Member of the Continental Congress, he affixed his name to the Declaration, the disease which had stricken his hand had not affected his courage. After filling many positions of importance, legislative and judicial, he died on the thirteenth of July, 1785, in his seventy-eighth year.

ALBANY Novemb 25 1755

SIR

We expected to have had the pleasure of visiting your Camp, but find our arrival in Albany is too late to attempt it with that advantage in the Destination of the Rhode Island Forces as we might have had if we had been sooner. Therefore we have contented ourselves with sending an Express to Col Harris ordering him under your Direction to draw off our Proper Proportion for Garrisoning and to cause them to be put under the care of proper officers and to march the remainder of said Forces down to Albany as soon as may be with Conveniency and would depend on your Goodness in directing him how to make the march the most easy advantageous and expeditious; as we shall be under a necessity of leaving this City in a short Time, but cannot do it before the arrival of said

Troops

We should have rejoiced greatly if the Provinces concerned in this Expedition could have reaped the hoped for & much desired fruits of it, but are not of the number of those who undertake to form a judgment in a Case of this Nature without being acquainted with or taking in all the circumstances that attend the Affair.

We doubt not but that the Course of this Expedition has been conducted with that judgment which the difficult circumstances attending it required and hope the Governments concerned will in the further Prosecution of it have the advantage of your Conduct and the Experience you have gained in this troublesome campaign, and we also hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here before our departure and are with the utmost Respect

Sir

Your most obedient humble servants

STEP. HOPKINS
D. UPRIDE

To The Hon'ble William Johnson Esqr
Commander in Chief of the Provincial Forces
at Lake George

Endorsed

"Govt HOPKINS & Mr UPRIDE's letter
" 25th Nov^r

" Rec^d en march to Albany."

Providence Superior Court	
September Term 1771.	
Baulston Brayton App't	Costs
vs	for Appel
Samuel Gardner Appel	
Answering Reason &)	
Copy of Do)	0. 0. 11
Att ^y Fees &c	11. 4
Attendance	5. —
Travel	1. 6
Written Depositions	12. 4
Filing objection to Evidence	—
filing answer thereto	4
Reading Papers	6. 3 ³ / ₄
Swearing Witnesses	6
Recording Judgm't	7
Dr. Ex ^m & Taxing	10
	£1. 19 7 ³ / ₄
Inf ^r Court Costs	3. 19 2
	£5. 18 9 ³ / ₄
Ex E	
Allow ^d	
* S. HOPKINS C. Just	

* Written when paralyzed, as is signature to Declaration.

Also official document signed as Clerk of the County of Providence, R. I. dated 9th of November 1742.

2.— William Ellery,

Born at Newport, R. I., on the twenty-second of December, 1727; graduated at Harvard, with credit, in 1747; and practiced law with distinction, for nearly twenty-five years. He was an early and intelligent patriot and a lover of the classics. When the struggle was over, he was rewarded with the Collectorship of the port of Newport, which he held for forty years; and the routine of his official ledgers had not dulled his love for literature, for he is said to have died at the age of ninety-three, on the fifteenth of February, 1820, with his Cicero in his hand. His letters, however, are rarely on interesting subjects.

NEWPORT Aug^t 31st 1789

Sir

Expect^s that Mr Bourne would immediately after his arrival here proceed on to New York I finished & closed the letter which I have sent to you by him before he came here

Yesterday he came down from Providence and informed some of the gentlemen of the town that he should not have engaged to attend the Providence Petition if he had not been advised that some person in this town would be employed to take ours to New York, and in short appeared to be so uneasy upon the occasion that a number of citizens thinking it might be advantageous to our petition and agreeable to the town of Providence persuaded Mr Marchant to take charge of it and accompany Mr Bourn.

Mr Marchant was formerly a member of Congress and I believe is not unknown by you He was a worthy member of that body & highly esteemed, is a firm patriot and a staunch friend to the federal government. In a word wherever he goes he carries along with him his own recommendation. The Providence Petition agrees pretty nearly with ours in the petitioning part. They have carried on a considerable commerce by land with Massachusetts and your State and therefore have requested that they might be permitted still to carry it on, an indulgence which from our situation would not be so beneficial to this town as to that. This and an enumeration of their services formerly in the common cause of our country constitute the principal differences in the Petitions Their petition passed before we were acquainted with the plan they meant to pursue otherwise they would have been more alike. As it is they are substantially the same.

Petitions coming from so respectable a part of the State seem to be entitled to the favorable attention of Congress, and I hope will be granted

I am in great haste

Your most obedt servant
WILLIAM ELLERY

[Addressed:]

The Hon'ble,

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON ESQ

Representative

in Congress

New York

Honored by

H MARCHANT ESQ

IV.—CONNECTICUT.

1.—Roger Sherman,

Born in Newton, Mass., on the nineteenth of April, 1721. At the age of nineteen, a shoemaker's apprentice, he found himself, by the death of his father, charged with the support of a large family. He travelled, with his kit on his back, to New Milford, where he worked for some time. Struggling against these difficulties and the want of early culture, he was destined to improve the understanding of more considerable people than the rustics whose shoes he patched, and to be, not only a member of the Continental Congress, but charged, with Jefferson and its other most gifted members, with the forming of the Declaration, in Committee, and, subsequently, as a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution and constructed the basis of the Government. After aiding in revising the Statutes of Connecticut, showing marked ability on the Bench, and serving repeatedly in Congress, he died on the twenty-third of July, 1793, a member of the Senate of the United States, aged seventy-one years.

PHILADELPHIA April 28 1792

DEAR SIR

Both Houses of Congress have agreed to close the Session the 5th of May on Saturday. If they do I shall if well set out to come home on Monday the 7th and if I can have a good passage from N York by water shall likely be at home, the Thursday evening following—or on Saturday by the Stage—There has been no nomination sent from the President to the Senate for a Surgeons Mate—I wrote to General Knox that Doct^r Strong would accept the office if appointed and I believed execute it faithfully. I have in my hands a Letter for Mrs Wooster from Gov^r Johnston in answer to her wherein is enclosed a Bank Bill for 100 dollars. I thought it not best to send it by the Post lest it should be lost you may tell her of it.

I am in health

ROGER SHERMAN

[Addressed]

M^r ROGER SHERMAN JUN^r

New Haven

Free

ROGER SHERMAN

Also, an A. D. S. dated 20 April, 1751

2.—Samuel Huntington.

Born at Haddam, Conn., on the second of July, 1732. His father was a small farmer. He was practicing law at Norwich, in 1764, when first known in public life, as a member of the General Assembly. He was made a Judge of the Superior Court, in 1774, and elected a Representative to the

Continental Congress, in 1775, where his distinguished ability and patriotism elevated him to its Presidency, in 1779, which position he resigned from ill health. Succeeding Mr. Jay in the Spanish Mission, he consummated a Treaty with that power. He was elected Governor of his native State, and occupied that position when he died, at the age of sixty-four, on the fifth of January, 1796.

PHILADELPHIA. Jan^y 18. 1780.

SIR,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed two Acts of Congress of the 13th & 14th Instant.

The former containing the regulations adopted relating to prisoners of war, taken by the Continental Troops or captured by the arms of any particular State either by Sea or Land.

Many difficulties have frequently occurred for want of such a general regulation too numerous to be recited. It is proper to observe that the first paragraph of the Act recommending to the Executive of the several States to transmit with all possible expedition to Gen^l Washington the names & rank of all officers, and the number of privates belonging to the Enemy held as prisoners of war in each State, and the places they are at &c should be complied with as soon as possible by those States that have any number of prisoners.

The other Act of the 14 Inst recommending to the Legislature of the several United States to make provision when not already made for conferring like privileges and immunities on the Subjects of his most Christian Majesty as are granted to the subjects and Inhabitants of these United States by the recited Articles in the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, will no doubt be cheerfully complied with by each of the States.

His Most Christian Majesty as soon as the Treaty became known published an Edict Conformable to that Article exempting the Subjects & Inhabitants of these United States from the Droit D'Aubaine &c.

I have the honour to be
with every sentiment of respect
your Excy's hble Servt

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President
The President of the State of Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA JUNE 16. 1780.

SIR,

I am to inform you, that Major General Gates is ordered to the Command of the Army in the Southern Department and you will see by the Act enclosed of the 16th Instant it is the Pleasure of Congress that you be employed in the Service in that Department as General Gates shall direct

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most hble servt
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President
Brigadier Genl WEEDON

NORWICH August 22d 1791.

SIR

I am favour^d with your letter of the 10th Instant The question you propose respecting the public paper in the Treasury viz; will it not be advisable on the last day of Sep^r to subscribe what shall then be on hand to the United States Loan, as the property & in the name of this State; is a question attended with delicacy, it appears to me from a present view of the subject, that the mode proposed to Loan it, most probably would prove beneficial to any Interested party in future, whether an Individual or the State as events shall determine, but on the other hand a weighty objection arises which is the want of Authority or direction from Government to negotiate the paper in this manner.

By the leave of providence I shall be at Hartford the fore part of Septem^r Shall farther consider the subject & freely give you the best advice in my power relative to the matter.

I am Sir with Sentiments
of Esteem & Respect
Your humble Servant

S ——— H ———

Mr. Treasurer COLT.

[Endorsed] "Copy of a letter to
Treasurer Colt
August 22^d 1791."

Also official document signed as Captain General and Commander in Chief of Connecticut, dated 17th October 1793.

J.—William Williams.

Born at Lebanon, Connecticut, on the eighth of April, 1751. He graduated, in 1754, at Harvard, and commenced the study of divinity with his father. He accompanied his relative, Colonel Ephraim Williams, in the expedition to Lake George, in the French War, in 1754, in which the latter lost his life; and, soon after his return, abandoned his studies for a successful mercantile career, in his native town. At the age of twenty-five, he was elected to the Provincial Legislature, of which, after forty-five years service, he might be called the Nestor. Elected a Delegate, also, to the Continental Congress of 1775, he was an ardent supporter of Liberty in that and in its successor. When the traitor, Arnold, undertook, in 1781, to wreak upon the people of New London, within fourteen miles of his birthplace, the vengeance he had threatened, in case his victim, Major Andre, was executed, Colonel Williams, who commanded a militia Regiment, rode twenty three miles in three hours to join in the defence. His letters show the intelligent interest he took in public events. He was a son-in-law of Governor Trumbull, having married in 1772. After receiving many well-deserved tokens of public confidence, he died on the second of August, 1811, at the age of eighty-one years.

PHILADELPHIA, July 5, 1777

HON^d SIR

The current News all y^e road as we came, was that the Enemy were pushing to this City & had made considerable Progress, that Ships were up y^e river as high as Kings Ferry, that the Boats were taken up by Genl Washington &c which determined our rout by the way of Fish Kill, Easton and Bethlehem, which made our journey long and tedious, so that we did not arrive here till Tuesday y^e 24th ult^o, thro y^e good Hand of God, in Health & Safety. Our Intelligence from the Armys was vague & uncertain on y^e road, and even here, what has happened since, the partial Battle & the evacuation of y^e Jerseys, & it is now reported of Staten Island, &c you will have heard by Mr. Sherman & otherwise, I dare say, for this can reach you & more perfectly than I can give it, there is great reason to believe the Enemy are bound to the northern quarter or to New England, & if reports are true they have sailed & their Designs are known before this. Our Letters from Genl Sinclair who commands at Tigr^a indicate his full Expectation of being attacked by Genl Carlton, & I wish I co^d say of his readiness to receive them but not so, & if they go to New England it will thro my dear Country into great Distress but I sho^d hope our army will be able to meet them before they can make any great Progress. Our sins are so great that we have reason to expect severe correction. O that this People were wise, but there is no appearance of it. God will accomplish his own Designs & what he does is, & will be right, & as you piously observe, "future Events are in the safe hand of the alwise & most merciful Director." The Enemy have left Jersey in Desolation & ruins where they had been & marked their way with merciless rage & Brutality, may the God of Heaven look on & pity the sufferings of his People & save us from the further Effects of their Brutal Rage. The acco^y you had rec^d of the raising & joining of the Southern Troops were certainly not just. I will not say how untrue, for obvious reasons.

The Jersey militia turn'd out most spiritedly on the late occasion, to their active zeal & exertions, it may in good measure (under God) be ascribed that y^e Enemy proceeded no further. I find Congress much as I left it, in every respect, some new members; their Time mostly taken up by Daily Incidents & occurrences, very little progress made in y^e Confederation, it had pass^d the Com^{ee} of the Whole House before I left, has been a good while before Congress & few important questions yet determined, the capital ones of the weight of each colony in deciding questions, & Taxation, & many others undetermined, the first respecting

y^e vote of Each has been entered, & it is most strenuously contended in behalf of the larger (one that) their vote shall be proportionate to their (number of voters which is) forcibly opposed, I trust & hope it will be (carried for) the equal Footing it has been, & without it (the smaller Colonies) will be in effect swallowed up and annihilated.

Your Letter to y^e Presid^t & its inclosures are rec^d the papers not read in the House, but Committed, I cant say what will be done; nothing but what is originated in this Batch of — Politicians seems to make any great impression. Mr. Erkelins seems to be vanished, we can find He has been here but no Body knows who or where he is, tho I believe by enquiry he is in Town, but have not been able yet to find him. I suspect he is chagrined at the cool reception he has met with, & keeps retired.

We have applied for the arms you wrote by us for, but find exceeding Difficulty in obtaining them, I believe not a man Southward or in y^e middle Department is supplied with an arm but by y^e Continent. We have done it thro zeal & strong attachment to y^e Cause, and yet they will not seem to know, believe or care anything about it, there is indeed such a thing as being righteous overmuch, & yet I can hardly repent that we have in such influences fallen into this Error, but shod N. E. be attacked & unarmed we shod have reason. the matter is however refer^d to Gen^l Washington, & M^r Sherman, is to negotiate the Affairs with him on his return (he set out y^e 2^d Ins^t) more than all the arms we have are wanted, which must be allowed as some excuse for their lothness to comply.

We have a very extra^r Contract now lying before Congress entered into in Sept^r last by Mr. D—— with Mons^r DuCoudray (after a long list of pre nomens) who is present, making him Gen^l & Command^r in Chief of the whole Choir of Artillery, with power to fill every vacant office now & in future, & to be subject to no Controul but by the Congress & y^e Commander in Chief of y^e whole Army, & with the rank of Maj^r General, & his pay as in a Separate Department, to be on pay from y^e 1st of Aug^t last, & a large Train of under officers of various ranks who are with him, for whom also he has made appointments, & to Mons^r & all he had has advanced a half years pay for expences of preparation & Passage not to be accounted for, & with Pensions for Life equal to half their Pay annually &c &c. The Contract has had several assignments but is not yet taken up. I do not expect it will be ratified in full. I forbear to say many things, the City swarms with French men.

I don't know but I transgress the Rules We all sign in divulging any matters sub Judice & unfinished in Congress, but I cant (refrain from communicating important matters to one who has so good a right to know; and to whom I & even y^e Continent are subject to great obligations. but S^r you will not make them to be publick nor known, as from me especially.

The prices of every thing here are most alarmingly extravagant, much owing to the malicious Cunning of our worst Enemys, the Tords, & coinciding with the boundless avarice of the Merchants, whose Gain is the Summum Bonum; and all the God they seem to know in these Parts. nothing to be done by Congress, because, forsooth, it will be interfering with the internal Police of this Grand state, in this respect the mother of Harlots &c. the principle properly applied is however very important. Congress seems to be chained to this place, & the longer they stay, the stronger a multitude of offices and officers are established & employed in this City, & some of the worst men in some of them. Yesterday was in my opinion poorly spent in celebrating the anniversary of y^e Declaration of Independence, but to avoid Singularity & Reflection upon my dear Colony, I thot it my Duty to attend the public Entertainment; a great Expenditure of Liquor, Powder &c took up y^e Day, & of Candles thro y^e City good part of the night, I suppose & I conclude much Tory unilluminated Glass, will want replacing &c.

Dr Young died lately of a Fever caught in attending y^e Congress Hospitals in y^e City, & was buried the day we came into Town. poor man He now knows the reality of things, he lately disputed & disbelieved, can find out very little of his last Ideas but believe he died just as he lived, expecting if there was a future State that a man of his Benevolence must be happy.

Am extremely sorry I cannot write my hon^d & worthy Friend Gen^l Huntington, & Mr. Hosmer whose Letters I have rec^d & shall acknowledge soon as possible, my apology will be I dare say in their opinion sufficient. the Rheumatic Pain that had so long afflicted my right arm, has a few days since suddenly fallen into my wrist, which is much swollen, has been in great pain day & night, feels as hot & looks like y^e skin of a roasted Pig. it is with much pain I write this, & were it not better than yesterday, it wo^d have been impossible. They will accept my best compliments. I had also a Letter from my most dear Mrs. Williams, it is peculiarly grievous I cant write her, please to remember me to her with most tender affection, & my other dear Friends, may God in infinite mercy save this People from their Sins,

& remove his Judgments. I am with all possible esteem, affection and Respect, your most dutiful, obedient, son & servant

W. WILLIAMS

our Lodgings are at present inconvenient, but excessive dear &c.

Addressed "To

"His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL Esqr
at Lebanon

"per Mr. BROWN Connecticut

Endorsed "July 5th 1777

"Hon W^m WILLIAMS Esqr

"at Philadelphia"

LEBANON 4 July 1781.

HON'D SIR

You will remember that yourself with us were appointed by the Assembly some time since a Com^{tee} to repair to Mohegan, inquire into the grievances complained of by Zachary Johnson & others of y^r old Tribe, of Incroachments & outrages committed upon them by White & black People &c &c. Zachary is pressing for the Com^{tee} to attend upon the Business, has been three Days with the Gov^r when the Council were sitting; it is to us an irksome undertaking, but it seems hard to put them off much longer, from obtaining at least a hearing of their grievous Complaints & have therefore promised him to attend when it shall be agreeable to you, & proposed to him some time in Sept^r soon after Tremman's meeting & to write you to fix on the Time & inform Gen^l Spencer of y^r Day you shall set.

& we will endeavor to meet you at Time & Place, & you will please to obtain & bring with you a Copy of the memorial to & Appointment of the Assembly.

We are, S^r with
great Respect your
most obed^t & very

H. Serv^{ts}

* JOSEPH SPENCER

W^m WILLIAMS

4.—Oliver Wolcott,

Born at Windsor, Connecticut, on the twenty-sixth of November, 1726. Graduated creditably at Yale in 1747; and receiving a Captain's commission, made a campaign against the French. At the peace, he studied medicine with an uncle, but soon abandoned his patients to minister to the people, first as Sheriff of Litchfield-county, then, in 1774, as a member of the Council, and for successive terms, until 1786, being in the meanwhile a Delegate in the Continental Congress, Chief-justice of Litchfield-county, Judge of Probate, and a Federal officer, making repeated campaigns; commanding fourteen Regiments of Connecticut militia, at New York, just prior to the Battle of Long Island, and, again, participating in the surrender of Burgoyne. He was an energetic and useful man, and apparently in

great request. He died on the first of December, 1797, in his seventy-first year, being Governor of Connecticut.

LITCHFIELD. Feb^ry 5th 1796.

SIR

I have been honoured with your letter of the 9th ultimo, relative to a Resolution of the Legislature of Virginia, proposing to the respective States of the Union, an interchange of their existing code of laws, and of such as shall be annually enacted.

The communication which has been offered will in my opinion, afford useful information, and have a tendency to improve and assimilate our general Jurisprudence, and may prevent Jealousies, which might otherwise exist by our not being acquainted with the legal principles, by which Rights are established and recovered, within the respective States —

The General Assembly of Connecticut, at their last session, completed a Revision of our Statutes, and which are now in the press. As soon as they shall be published, a Book of them shall be sent to you by the post, which is a mode of conveyance the most certain and the least expensive.

The proposal of Virginia, to continue an exchange of such laws as shall be annually enacted, will be submitted to the order of our General Assembly, at their next Session.

Your kind offer to transmit a Code of the laws of your State, is highly agreeable.

With sentiments of much esteem and respect

I am, Sir,

Your most obed^t humble serv^t

OLIVER WOLCOTT

The Hon^{ble} H. BROOKE

V.—NEW YORK.

1.—William Floyd,

Born at Setauket, Long Island, on the seventeenth of December, 1734; the son of a prosperous farmer. He engaged in agriculture until selected as a Delegate to the Congress of 1774, and served until 1783, being part of the time also State Senator; again served from 1789 to '91; was three times Presidential Elector: in the State Constitutional Convention of 1801; and, a member of the Cincinnati. He was not only an industrious and conscientious Representative, but an active patriot, and a zealous officer of the militia. He removed to Oneida-county in 1803; was again elected to the State Senate; and died on the fourth of August, 1821, at the advanced age of eighty-seven. He has left many descendants, (amongst whom are the Crosby family,) who take just pride in his patriotism, integrity, and worth.

A return of the names of officers
in the Suffolk County Brigade
Feb 13th 1795

To the Artillery } JOSEPH CONKLIN, Cap^l
Company } HENRY P DERING 1st Lieut

In Colo HUNTINGS Regiment

SILVANUS HALSEY Capt Vice CALER ROGERS

* The Continental General.

removed
 BENJAMIN ROGERS Lieut Vice SILVANUS HAL-
 SEY promoted
 CALEB HALSEY, Ensign Vice BENJAMIN ROGERS
 promoted.

Colo STRONGS Regiment
 SAMUEL T BRINGS Ensign Vice ISAAC SEAMAN,
 Resigned out of health
 W^M FLOYD.

WESTERN May 25 1817

DEAR SIR

I Rec^d your letter by ————. I was
 glad to hear from the family, but was sorry to
 hear that you was under the necessity of fur-
 nishing him with money to pay his Expenses
 I think it does not have a good appearance that
 a young man in the prime of life dont earn a
 sufficiency to support himself without being
 burdensome to his friends. He must depend
 on his own Exertions for a living. If I find,
 he gets capable of doing Business to Advant-
 age I may be induced to give him some assist-
 ance. I have given him fifty dollars to pay the
 expenses of his visit here. Inclosed I send you
 fifty dollars more to be applied for the benefit
 of the family in such way as you may think
 proper. My love to M^r ——— and to my grand
 & great grand children and

am with great respects
 Yours &c
 W^M FLOYD

————— Esqr
 at New York
Endorsed

"Gen WILLIAM FLOYD
 25 May 1817"

2.—*Philip Livingston,*

Born in Albany, New York, on the fifteenth of January,
 1716. He was the fourth son of Philip, the second proprie-
 tor of the Manor, and brother of Peter Van Brugh and
 William Livingston, patriots of the Revolution, and of
 Lady Stirling. He graduated at Yale in 1737; was Alder-
 man of the East Ward, in 1754, and engaged in that year
 with his brother, William, his brother-in-law, Lord Stirling,
 General John Morin Scott, and one or two others, in estab-
 lishing the City, now New York Society, Library. In the
 Assemblies of 1759 and 1762, he took a prominent part with
 three others of his name. The Livingston party, during
 this period, sustained Governor Shirley from the rivalry of
 Sir William Johnson, supported by the De Laucey party,
 who triumphed in the election of 1769, defeating Philip and
 Peter Van Brugh Livingston, John Morin Scott, and The-
 odorus Van Wyck, as candidates for the city. This Assem-
 bly being strongly Tory, refused to consider the action of
 the Continental Congress, which occasioned the calling of
 the Convention to elect Delegates to Congress by which he
 was returned to the Congress of 1775. He conducted an
 able correspondence with Edward Burke, agent for the Col-
 ony, and in the Congress of 1774, was on the Committee
 that prepared the Address to the People of Great Britain, and
 was also a member of the first Senate of New York, which
 met in September, 1777. He was an active patron of Co-
 lumbia College; one of the founders of the Chamber of
 Commerce; and, in every relation in life, a devoted, patri-

otic, and courageous man. He died at York Town, Penn-
 sylvania, on the twelfth of June, 1778, in his sixty-second
 year; and a monument erected over his grave, recalls his
 services and the fact that Congress once sat in that place.

NEW YORK 4th May 1763

MR. RICH^d DERBY.

Just now arrived here your Schooner Patty,
 Capⁿ Michael Driver, he desired me to acquaint
 you of his arrival and that he will wait your
 orders. he has on board 52 pipes Wine for
 Cargo—I will keep him from Entering if I
 can, till you or your orders arrive here which
 I presume will not be long, as the Cap^t tells me
 that he has wrote to you from S^c Carolina, that
 he was bound to this place. Wines would I
 suppose sell for about £50, The New York
 Wines. the other perhaps about £30

I remain

Your Most Hum: Serv^t
 PHIL. LIVINGSTON

New York the 10 Feby 1761. Rec^d of M W^m
 Coventry Forty three pounds five shillings &
 one penny Phil^s Currency being so much he
 rec^d from Messrs Scott & McMichel Merch^{ts}
 there for my Acct.
 £43. 5. 1

PHIL LIVINGSTON

3.—*Francis Lewis,*

Born in Llandaff, Wales, in the year 1713. He was edu-
 cated at Westminster, apprenticed to a London merchant,
 and when of age, emigrated to this country and entered
 into mercantile business. He was aid to Colonel Mersey at
 Fort Oswego, when captured by the Marquis of Montcalm,
 in 1757; and was taken as a prisoner to Canada, and then to
 France, where he was finally exchanged. In 1765, he served
 in the Colonial Congress, and in the Continental Congresses
 of 1775 and 1776. He appears to have been largely engaged,
 through his firm of Francis Lewis & Son, in furnishing
 supplies to the Army; and most of his letters extant refer
 to those subjects. During the possession of Long Island
 by the British, his property was devastated and his wife
 closely confined and subjected to great hardships. He re-
 tired from Congress in 1778, and died on the thirtieth of
 December, 1803, in his ninetyeth year. His son, Morgan
 Lewis, was Governor and Quartermaster-General of New
 York, and has many descendants.

YORK TOWN. 6 March 1778.

DEAR FRANK.

The Commercial Committee having directed
 W^m Smith Esquire of Baltimore, to purchase
 Flour &c for the public service, he will call
 upon you for six Thousand Dollars, which you
 will pay him taking duplicate receipts for the
 same, specifying his being accountable to the
 Commercial Committee of Congress for the
 same. I am,

Dear Frank
 Yours Affectionately
 FRA: LEWIS

TO FRANCIS LEWIS JUN^r

4.—*Lewis Morris,*

Born in the year 1726, at the Manor of Morrisania, which
 he inherited on the decease of his father. He graduated at

Yale, in 1746. He early took a decided position in the contest with the Ministry, and with much to loose and little to gain, abandoned the comforts of home and the allurements of a competency, to serve his less fortunate brethren. When the Colonial Assembly of New York refused to appoint Delegates to the Provincial Congress, he was active in organizing in Westchester-county, where the royal interest was paramount, meetings to elect Delegates to the Provincial Convention, by which, being a member, he was elected to the Continental Congress, and took a prominent part, until he was succeeded, at his own request, by his distinguished brother, Governor. On the restoration of peace, he renewed his favorite avocation as a farmer. He was a Major-general of the militia. His family was divided in sentiment, another brother, Staats Long, becoming a Lieutenant-general in the British Army and marrying the Dutchess of Gordon, and a brother-in-law, the Rev. Isaac Wilkins, being one of the most talented and eloquent of the royal advocates, in the Colonial Assembly of 1775. He died on the twenty-second of January, 1798, aged seventy-two years. For some unknown reason, his letters are of excessive rarity, which is to be regretted, as his prominent sacrifices, patriotism, and ability, give them marked interest. Many of his descendants reside in and about New York.

I William Earl of Stirling, Viscount Canada, &c do declare that I am well acquainted with the within described Tracts of Land belonging to WILLIAM KELLY Esquire in Morris County in East New Jersey and having examined the within do think it a just and fair description of it

STIRLING

I, LEWIS MORRIS, ESQUIRE, of the Manor of Morrisania in the County of West Chester in the Province of New York do hereby certify that I have often been on the within mentioned estate and viewed it with particular attention and I am of opinion that it answers the description given of it and that I don't know a richer or a finer Body of lowland in the Province of New Jersey, nor have I ever seen in any part of America such fine horn'd cattle nor a finer parcel of working Slaves than those on said Estate

LEWIS MORRIS

I John Alsop of the City of New York, Merchant do hereby certify that I have been on the within Estate and that tho my stay in it was but short yet from the Universal Opinion & Concurring Acct^s of those well acquainted with it I do verily believe that the same answers the above description.

* JOHN ALSOP

I, Abraham Lott Esqr. Treasurer of the Colony of New York do hereby certify that I have been twice this year on the within mentioned Estate and having examined narrowly into the quality of the Land do not think that the within Description is at all exaggerated. The luxuriant growth of the Corn Flax Hemp Oats, several kinds of Grass, Cabbages and a great variety of garden produce (particularly on the

Lands) fully verifying the contents of the Within Advertisement, and further I do agree with Lewis Morris Esqr with respect to the Slaves & Cattle on the said Estate

ABR^m LOTT

NEW YORK August 9th 1769.

LITINGOW Decem^r 25 1776

SIR

I wrote to you some time ago when I was at Phila and you on Long Island relative to your being wrote to from Phi^a that it was there said that you and your Brothers had refused continental money and after finding out by M^r Morris that you laid the report on me, immediately on my getting to Phila applied to Mr. Duane, who told me that he had wrote to that purpose but not that I had said it, I then asked him who had told him so, he said the gent^l was not in town, the next day I asked again, Says he do you mean to trace this matter, I told him by heavens, I did, he then told me that whenever the gentleman came to town he would let me know, I often after that applied and y^e answer was that he was still out of town, this was the substance of the letter I wrote you and at the same time pressed an answer. I suppose the Letter must have miscarried for I believe you could not have acted so much unbecoming a gentleman as not to have acknowledged the receipt of it. M^r Johnston and myself have been talking about getting you liberated, he writes you by this opportunity on the subject and you may depend that I shall do everything in my Power to serve you, in that or anything else, notwithstanding the opinion you conceived of me, let me ask one question before I conclude would it not have been more candid to have spake to me when you heard of the affair and by that means put it in my power to have vindicated myself, now I have unbent my mind, and give me leave to say upon the word of a man of honor that I never did say anything to the prejudice of you or any one of the family either with regard to the Continental money or anything in this Dispute

From Your injured Friend & Brother

LEWIS MORRIS

To G—— W—— Esqr

NEW YORK 6th March 1784

DEAR SIR

The Bearer M^r Geo Fisher has applied to me for a Letter of introduction to you supposing it will facilitate the settlement of some Public accounts he has to adjust with your Office

I do not know nor do I believe that any preference is given on these occasions, but if great merit and a very distinguished attention to the Interests of this Country will entitle him to any

favors with you. You may depend this man is deserving of every civility or favor you may be pleased to extend to him

I am with esteem

Your Most Obed^t

and Most Humble Servant

LEWIS MORRIS

The Hon^{ble} ROBERT MORRIS Esquire

Philadelphia

fav^d by

Mr Geo FISHER

VI.—NEW JERSEY.

1.—Richard Stockton,

Born at Princeton, New Jersey, on the first of October, 1730. From the position of his family and the fortune he inherited, he was freed from the early struggle to which many of his colleagues were subjected; and, having graduated with honor at Princeton, was admitted to the Bar, in 1754, and, in 1774, became a Judge of the Supreme Court for the Province. In visiting England, he was received with high consideration, as a gentleman of talent and importance in the Colony, and formed the acquaintance of persons of distinction in the English Ministry, among others, the Marquis of Rockingham, the more liberal predecessor as Premier of Lord North, with whom he freely corresponded; but these associations did not control his conduct or influence his patriotism. He was an influential member of the Continental Congress, and a Commissioner to the Northern Army. He was a special object of hostility to the Royalists; and was confined in the jail, at Amboy, and in the Provost Prison (old Hall of Records) New York, and died at Morven, his seat near Princeton, on the twenty-eighth of February, 1781, at the age of fifty-one, from the effects of their cruel treatment.

Receiv^d Nov 2^d 1762 of Stephen Truesdell 42¢
provin in full of one years interest on the within
Bond

RICH^d STOCKTON.

An Expedient

for the Settlement of the

American Disputes

humbly submitted to the consideration

of his Majesty's Ministers

by

an American

The State of American Affairs is so truly alarming at this time, that every real friend to the British Empire ought to suggest every probable expedient that occurs to him for the accommodation of the unhappy disputes between Great Britain and the Colonies. —to give the following suggestions their due weight; it must be premised —

1st That the several North American Colonies, from New Hampshire to South Carolina inclusive, are able to furnish 500,000 fighting men; who are in general as fit for service as the English Militia, and many of them much more so, having been in actual service the last war.

2^{dly} That the great body of the people in these several Colonies are now (even to the

astonishment of many Colonists the mselves perfectly united in a determinate opposition) to the authority of the British Parliament, *as to all internal Taxation.*

3^{dly} That there is not the least remaining doubt, if the British Government should proceed to put the late Acts of Parliament respecting the Massachusetts Bay (or any other Acts which involve the Idea of an absolute uncontrollable power in the British Parliament over the Colonies) into execution, by force; but that the ass^d Colonies would unite in attempting to repel force by force. —

To which may be added, what is as well or perhaps better known in Great Britain than in America, to wit,

4^{thly} That the *certain* consequences of this unnatural War will be dreadful to both Great Britain and America; and the *probable* effects thereof may be fatal to the whole British Empire.

Matters standing thus; and the three first propositions above premised being founded upon the most indubitable facts (of which the writer of this, from his general acquaintance with America, is perhaps as competent a judge as any man whatever. It is humbly proposed to the Consideration of his Majesty's Ministers, whether it would not be proper

1st That a royal Instruction be immediately obtained, and sent over to the several Governors of the North American Colonies, requiring them forthwith to recommend it to their several Assemblies to pass, and to give their own assent to an Act which may be passed by the Legislatures of the several Provinces, empowering certain Commissioners therein to be named, to repair to England; with power to confer with his Majesty's Ministers or with Commissioners to be appointed by Act of Parliament, respecting the grand points in dispute between Great Britain and America: and finally to determine thereupon.

2^{dly} That to prevent all disputes in future the s^d American Commissioners be also empowered to confer and agree with the British Commissioners respecting the future government and regulation of the Colonies; either by framing One general System of Government for all the Colonies on the Continent, similar to the British, Or by making some material alterations in the present mode of provincial Government. *In either* of which systems, some effectual provision may be made for the adequate support of the American Government by the Americans themselves: And also for the payment of all such sums of money as may become due from America to Great Britain for the assistance

of her Fleet and Army. These determinations of the^d Commissioners to be subjected nevertheless to such alteration as the wisdom of his Majesty and his Parliament of Great Britain may make therein; and as shall be agreed to by the several provincial Legislatures.

3^{ly} That upon such Instructions being given to the several Governors, his Majesty be advised in his royal clemency to recommend it to his Parliament to suspend the operation of the Boston Port Act until the determination of the s^d Commissioners shall be had.

The Author of the above hints offers them with all humility, and with great diffidence of his own abilities, on so great and national a question. But some expedient must be immediately fallen upon, or we shall be involved in a civil war the most obnoxious awful and tremendous that perhaps ever occurred since the Creation of the world.

He will esteem it a signal blessing of divine providence, conferred upon him, if any one Idea he hath suggested may be of any use at this dreadful Crisis: And if otherwise, he will at least be able to comfort himself with the uprightness of his intentions in this feeble attempt; and with the assurance that it can do no harm either to himself, or any other person.

Decem^r 12th 1774.

Endorsed "Hints transmitted to Lord Dartmouth Secretary of State for America thro' the hands of Sam^l Smith Esq^r of London Merch^t."

"I hereby certify that the foregoing manuscript entitled "An expedient for the settlement of "the American Disputes humbly submitted to "the consideration of his Majestys Ministers by "an American" is in the handwriting of my grandfather the Hon Richard Stockton, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and was found amongst his papers, and that the accompanying receipt dated November 2^d 1762 is also in his handwriting and signed by him.

Signed, * * *

Dated PRINCETON N J,
1869.

2.—Francis Hopkinson,

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1737, of an influential and wealthy family, his mother a niece of the then Bishop of Worcester. He read law and entered the practice under the favoring smiles of the Colonial Court and aristocracy. He entered Congress in 1776; and served for a number of years. He was also an Admiralty Judge and a man of letters and esprit. He made his mark on the period in which he lived, and died too young for his greater reputation, in May, 1791, aged fifty-three years.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety
for the State of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of Francis Hopkinson,
Humbly sheweth,

That it is with great Reluctance your Memorialist is induced to trouble your Hon^{ble} Board, with a Complaint of a private nature; but as, in the present State of Affairs, it is impossible for him to obtain justice in the usual Line of the Law, he is under the necessity of applying to the present Guardians of the People for that Redress, which they have always shewn to the aggrieved.

Your Honours will be pleased to recollect that your Memorialist has been very active and industrious in detecting the frauds of a certain George Crows, & in recovering large sums of money which he had by subtlety and Deceit, obtained from your memorialist & from several other Persons: Your Memorialist represents that, in the beginning of these discoveries, he had it repeatedly in his power to have repaid himself the sum of which he had been defrauded, but out of a Principle of honour, deposited all the Monies which passed through his hands, with some of the members of your Hon^{ble} Board, until advertisements should go forth, calling upon all who had suffer^d by the Fraud, to come in and make their respective claims. That, amongst the several sums so recovered, there is a Bundle of Continental Currency in sheets amounting to about £240, with such marks as your memorialist thinks will most clearly ascertain it to be his property: that none other of the Creditors of the said George Crows, paid him their money in sheets, but in cut Paper Currency, whereby your Memorialist is of opinion that he can so fully prove the Identity of such Part of his Property as is contained in said sheets, that in Justice he ought not to throw it into the general mass for the Benefit of others. Your memorialist fully possessed of the justice of his claim has offered to submit this matter, to the Determination of any three impartial men & to be bound by their Decision: but is sorry to say, the other Creditors so far from acceding to this equitable & unexceptionable Proposal have ordered the Treasurer to throw all the money into Hotch Pot & make proportional Dividend, without paying any regard to the just Claim of your memorialist: & have offered to give him a writing of Indemnification for so doing.

The manifest Injustice of such a Procedure hath thrown your memorialist on the Protection of your Hon^{ble} Board, humbly requesting the Interposition of your authority to prevent & forbid the Treasurer of the said Creditors (Mr. Jacob Shoemaker) from making

the Distribution of the monies in his Hands, until the Claim of your memorialist shall be heard & a Determination thereupon obtained from three impartial Persons, or from your hon'ble Board, whichever shall appear most convenient and proper.

Your memorialist humbly submits the Premises to your consideration, not doubting, but that you will do therein as Justice and Honour shall direct.

Philadelphia, } FRA'S HOPKINSON.
5th of Oct^r, 1776. }

The Complainant will attend the Council on Monday Morning, or at such other Time as they shall please to direct, in order to receive their Determination.

To the Hon'ble
The Council of Safety,
a Memorial.

Endorsed "of FRANCIS HOPKINSON,
" to be determined upon,
" on Monday, 7th Oct^r, 1776."

To CLEMENT BIDDLE Esq^r, Marshall of the Admiralty.

Nathaniel Brittenham, having a Cargo of slaves on Board the schooner Friar's Bay Packet in your Custody, you are hereby directed to deliver the said Cargo to the said Nathaniel Brittenham, upon his paying you Customary Freight for the said Cargo, which Freight you are to bring and deposit in my hands for the use of the owner of the said Schooner.

FRA'S HOPKINSON.

Nov^r. 5th, 1787.

Also official document signed as Judge of Admiralty, dated June 17th, 1786.

3.—John Witherspoon,

Was born at Yester, Scotland, on the fifth of February, 1722; a descendant of John Knox. He graduated at the University of Edinburgh, in 1742. Was a learned preacher, and soon a popular one. After repeated solicitations, in which Stockton, when in Europe, joined, he consented to accept the Presidency of Nassau Hall, at Princeton, and was installed on the seventeenth of August, 1768. Deeply interested in the exciting political struggle, he soon laid aside his professional duties and studies, to participate, until Independence was secured in 1783, when he returned to the classic shades of his Tusculum and to his ministry, which he continued until the time of his decease, although for two years totally blind. He died on the fifteenth of November, 1794, in his seventy-third year. His daughter Frances, married Doctor David Ramsay, the historian of South Carolina, who was her biographer.

TUSCULUM, August 16th 1785.

Dr SIR

I ought to have written to you when Dr Ramsey's servant went over for the chair, & I would have done it but the Dr and my son David being abroad when I called sent him after-

wards of themselves. Dr Gordon delivered your message, Viz that if I liked it I might have it & it should not be a small matter that would part us. I therefore leave it wholly to yourself what abatement you will make of the 70 Dollars and I will send you the money very soon. You know it is for a young man who has his future all to make, but I was desirous to have it for him before the hot weather is over. Please to write me in Return so that I may have the money remitted. I shall be glad to know when you expect to go home. I have given you the trouble of the enclosed to save postage.

I am Dr Sir

Your most devoted & humble servant
JNO WITHERSPOON.

SAMUEL HOLTEN Esqr
Addressed " Hon^{ble} D HOLTEN
" In Congress
Free New York."

[Endorsed]

" A letter from the Rev^d Dr WITHERSPOON
" 16th Aug^r 1785 "

4.—John Hart,

Born, when or where, no man now appears to know, and whose handwriting many have sought and few have found, in other form than on a Colonial note; a thrifty farmer, seated at Hopewell, where apparently other Harts resided, and one other John Hart whose signature has been taken by some for his; writing without reference to grammatical rule, as seen by his letter in Doctor Sprague's collection, and which Sedgwick copies in his *Life of Governor Livingston*, with alight (if not alighted) allusion to him and to his colleagues, was nevertheless the man for the emergency; and when the delegation from New Jersey required an infusion of new vigor, with Clark, Witherspoon, Stockton, and Hopkinson, stepped forward and filled the place, signed the Declaration, and sustained it as firmly and consistently as did more scholarly men. He died in 1780, at the darkest period of the War, failing to see the glorious termination; and his memory is now commemorated by a monument, at Hopewell, erected by his neighbors.

The Province of New York	
To JOHN HART	D ^r 9
To my expenses	3. 5. 0
To 13 days service Including	
friday the 7 th of July to wednesday	
the 19 th at 10s	6. 10. 0
	9. 15. 0
Received in part from his	
Excellency the Governor	6. 00. 0
	3. 15. 0

New York the 19th July 1758

[Endorsed]

JOHN HARTS
acct agst
the Province of
New York.
Read the 6th Dec^r 1758 & the Council

thought the £6 paid to him suff.

Also small autograph receipt signed, dated 1st May 1746, and Provincial note of New Jersey for Six Shillings, signed.

5.—*Abraham Clark,*

Born at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, on the fifteenth of February, 1726. Too feeble for labor, he turned his attention to surveying and to the study of the law. Popular with the people, he early enjoyed their confidence, and was selected as an object for the patronage of the Crown and the popular government, holding among other positions that of High Sheriff. From the time of his election to Congress, in 1776, to that of his death, from coup de soleil, in June, 1794, he continued in the public service and incurred the hostility of the legal profession by fostering legislation which reduced their perquisites. He suffered largely in the cause of his country, two of his sons being confined in the Jersey prison-ship, and his family driven from their home. Another son, Doctor Abraham Clark, died at Kinderhook, New York, leaving an only daughter, the widow of the Hon. John P. Beckman, of that place, now living in this city. A monument was erected to his memory, by the descendants of his neighbors. Such letters as he has left behind him are generally of interest.

ELIZA. TOWN June 8, 1775.

SIR,

You have now sent you 6 Qr. Casks & 2 half Barr^{ls} of Powder—The Quarter Casks I got at New Brunswick & the 2 half Barr. containing 105 lb I got at Woodbridge—for each of which I gave rec^{ts} that I rec^d them to be forwarded to the Provincial Camp near Boston agreeable to a requisition from them. There was no more to be obtained; they had sold the most of their stores to the Inhabitants. You'll be so kind as to send a rec^d of the same Tenor of those I gave that I may show them the stores are forwarded agreeable to my promises.

I am Sir

Your Hum^{ble} Serv^t.

ABRA. CLARK.

ELIZA. TOWN, July 25, 1779.

MY DEAR FRIEND

Our Success in taking Stoney point Fort you have heard. We were not equally successful at the Fort on the other side the River, which was relieved by Gen^l Clinton with the British Army last Sunday Evening; The one we took was dismantled & left by our Troops; and Rivington in his paper tells us they retook 4 Eighteen brass pounders which our people was attempting to remove up the River, but this I have not heard from our accounts tho' it may be true.

We had a pretty certain account of a battle at Charles Town on the 21st of June which ended in our favour, but from the best Accounts I can obtain it was a kind of Naval engagement, or an Attack upon their Gallies, by Land or Water when it is said two of them fell into our hands by which means their supplies of Stores are cut off. After all I fear no great af-

fair hath happened in our favour, and I cannot but fear for that Country, but yet entertain a hope.

The burning of Fairfield & Norwalk & plundering New Haven you no doubt have had a full account of. From Staten Island they tell us the British intended to have Visited this Town in like manner but was prevented by being called up the River upon our taking their Fort. Thus by the Good providence of God we have hitherto escaped. We hope and we fear.

The taking the Fort, greatly dispirited the Enemy at New York but their spirits had a revival a few days ago by the arrival of Lord Cornwallis who brings them an account of a Large reinforcement wending over, either 4 or 5 Thousand here & 2 thousand to Georgia which was to sail in ten days after he left England. If these should come I believe you must quit your Indian Chase & return to meet them, at least I hope you may. No acc^t of Arbutnot.

I have not heard from Mr. Dayton or your family but shall likely this day, until which I shall keep open this Letter to add to it if necessary.

Our Guards are very weak. Several Counties have not sent in their Quota of Men, and some none at all; we live in Jeopardy continually.

I am, My Dear friend

Yours most Sincerely

ABRA. CLARK.

Col^o DAYTON.

JULY 28, 1779.

P. S. I find it easier to write than get Letters forwarded in which I have been prevented till now.

The affair of the engagem^t at Charles Town turns out to have been an Attack upon the Enemies Lines of no great Consequence in its effects. Only 30 killed & 116! wounded on our side, and a retreat from the attack.

Gen^l Clinton hath returned from the North River intirely leaving all his posts above his Forts & works near Kings bridge, as reports from New York inform us, and hath gone to Visit New London & Towns adjacent. We expect with good reason a Visit from the Enemy to this Town, for which we are very ill prepared.

A. C.

VII.—PENNSYLVANIA.

To the honorable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

The petition of Hugh Craig humbly sheweth that your petitioner is desirous of acting in the capacity of Paymaster to some one of the regiments which may be vacant. He can procure necessary security & should he be thought

worthy of the appointment will endeavour to give satisfaction by a steady adherence to his duty in the discharge of that office. Your petitioner as in duty bound will pray, &c

HUGH CRAIG.

I have had the pleasure of knowing M Craig for some years and believe him to be a gentleman of capacity & integrity, and properly qualified for the office he solicits.

BENJ RUSH
JOHN CHEVALIER
ISAAC SNOWDEN
GERARD CLARKSON
GEO CLYMER

[Endorsed]

The petition of
Hugh Craig for
Paymaster.

1.—*Robert Morris,*

Born in Lancashire, England, in January, 1733, his father, also a merchant of Philadelphia, gave him the advantage of a liberal education. Entering into mercantile business, he was for years the greatest and boldest operator in the country, in goods, stocks, and land. It was to his financial skill and expedients, as financial agent and withal Secretary of the Treasury, linking his own wealth, credit, and destiny to that of the country, that the success of the Revolution was largely due; and when the Cabinet of Washington was formed, he was the first choice for Secretary of the Treasury, but declined, when General Hamilton was selected. As a Member of the Continental Congress, he was especially useful in Committee work. He was also an influential member of the Convention that adopted the Federal Constitution; and, on its adoption, served one year as Senator in Congress, declining re-election. Late in life, he was overwhelmed with pecuniary embarrassments, growing out of immense purchases of wild lands, in anticipation of that great emigration which he foresaw; harassed with suits, and for a time the inmate of a jail. His letters are numerous, generally on the subject of his embarrassments, and many of them in an unfortunate controversy with Carter Braxton, a brother signer. He commenced a magnificent residence in Philadelphia, which stood unfinished for many years, and was finally demolished. His wife was the sister of the celebrated Bishop White. He died on the eighth of May, 1806, in the seventy-third year of his age.

RICHMOND June the 10th 1786

SIR,

I beg leave to call your attention to my letter of the 21st of May, and to observe that Twenty Days have elapsed since that letter was written. Permit me to mention at the same time that Mr Braxton's Paper, was not received by me until the 9th of May, so that my Reply was completed in Twelve Days. Do me the favor, I intreat you, Sir, to state to your Brethren my situation. Forced from home, my Family divided, my young Children entrusted to Domestics, my Business suffering much, my Conduct liable to imputations most injurious, every sentiment of Justice in my bosom wounded by the reflection that the claims upon me remain unsatisfied, which my presence at Philadelphia can alone put it in my power to dis-

charge. I will not contrast this with the position of my Opponent, I will not remark to you that he ought to have brought his accounts to Philadelphia for settlement. I will bury many reflections on this occasion which arise from the nature of our Connection, the confidence I reposed in him & the services I have rendered. But, Sir, I must ask, is it right for me to be detained as I am from Day to Day, from Week to Week, from Month to Month? Ought there not to be some Period to that state of suspense in which I am held? Ought not Mr. Braxton long since to have laid before you all his Vouchers & Arguments? I will not trespass longer on your time & patience. I will merely repeat the prayer of my letter above referred to, that some short day may be fixed by which Mr. Braxton shall close what he has to say on this Business.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient
& humble Servant
ROBT MORRIS.

ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY Esq^r.

PHILADA June 9th 1794

DEAR SIR

The multiplicity of my engagements did not hinder me from considering in conjunction with Mr. Greanleaf the contents of your letter of the 26th of last month, altho' those engagements occupied me too much to admit of an earlier reply.

We viewed and considered the proposition you were pleased to make, several times, and finally came to the conclusion, that a due regard to our own interests would not admit of our acquiescence. The price or value being fixed so high in our estimation as not to admit of that reward for the use of our resources, which many other objects now offer. I return therefore all the Papers herewith & also a copy of the Great Kanahwa & other surveys. I am sorry that we cannot be the purchasers, the price so far exceeding our expectations puts it out of our power to make an offer. I must however in justice observe that your prices are such as may probably be obtained by selling the property in detail, but even in that way there would be no chance of our obtaining the compensation which a variety of other pursuits offer to us.

With the most perfect Esteem & respect

I am Dr Sir

Your obed^t h^{ble} serv^t

ROBT MORRIS

His Ex^{cy}

GEO. WASHINGTON Esq^r

FEBY 6th, 1799JNO. NICHOLSON ESQ^r.

DEAR SIR

Your four letters of yesterday No 1 to 4 are with me; I suppose we shall be obliged finally to leave Mess^{rs} Beckley & Moore to pursue their own course. I wrote to Mr. Marshall or Mr. Call or Mr. Harrison I forgot which abt the 7 years delay but never have received an answer on that point. By your No. 2, I see you have no faith in my clause on an intended assignment, I shall think more on that subject, and if that will not do we must hit upon one that will. Mr. Fox has written me a note that he does not set out untill to-morrow morning but I do not know of any thing you or I can do respecting his journey. I have made my push for Prison bounds but if not obtained, I will quit all and begin again being now determined not to spend my Life here for the sake of any property whatever.

I am yours &c
ROBT MORRIS.

[Address]

"JOHN NICHOLSON ESQ^r"

[Endorsed]

"Letter from

"ROBERT MORRIS ESQ^r"Feb^y 6th 1799"2.—*Benjamin Rush,*

Born at Berberry, Pennsylvania, on the twenty-fourth of December, 1745. He graduated, at Princeton, at an early age; and, after studying medicine with Doctor Redman, in Philadelphia, visited Europe, walking the Hospitals, attending lectures, and taking his degree of Doctor of Medicine, at Edinburgh. He soon attained an extensive practice and a wide reputation. He declined to serve in the Congress of 1775; but in 1776, readily took the place created by a member who declined to sign the Declaration; and, although not a member when it passed, signed it on the second of August. He was appointed, in 1777, Physician-general to the Hospital of the Middle Department, and served with great usefulness. He was a member of the Convention which adopted the Constitution of Pennsylvania in place of the Charter of William Penn, and was Cashier of the Mint, in 1788. During the raging of the yellow-fever, in Philadelphia, in 1793, Doctor Rush remained at his post and battled with the fearful scourge, saying to those who counselled him to regard his personal safety, "I will remain if I remain alive." After a useful life, he died on the nineteenth of April, 1813, leaving a reputation in his profession only equalled by that as a patriot and philanthropist.

DEAR SIR

The sailors in the barracks Complain of the want of Suitable accommodations for an hospital, A few of them in the Province Island Hospital (who are on the recovery) beg for liberty to be removed to the barracks. I hope the Committee of safety will attend immediately to these matters.

I am sorry to find that our recruits suffer so much from the want of blankets. Suppose the Committee of Safety should request by an ad-

vertisement every family in the City to furnish one, or more from their beds according as they could spare them. I have mentioned the subject to above a dozen families in the City who have all expressed a *desire* to concur in it if they are properly called upon therein

I remain Dr Sir

yours sincerely

B RUSH

Tuesday Morning

DEAR SIR

Agreeable to your request I have made out our acct but have left the sum to be allowed for our services to the generosity of the Committee of Safety. I beg leave only to inform you that the Surgeons in our Provincial Batallion are allowed 28 dollars and their mates 18 dollars *each* per month. The Continental Surgeons are allowed nearly and their mates exactly the same each.

yours &c

B. RUSH.

Tuesday,

M^r OWEN BIDDLE,

[Also Endorsed]

"Men for ships

"Magazine Boats"

PHILADELPHIA March 6, 1806.

DEAR SIR.

Dr. Physick being much indisposed, and unable to commit his thoughts to paper, has requested me to transmit to you our opinion of Mr. Carter case, being the result of a consultation held upon it this forenoon in the Doctor's sick room.

We do not despair of Mr. Carters case, but we unite in advising him by all means to come immediately to Philadelphia. He will suffer least by coming by water. no sum of money would induce Dr. Physick to visit him in Baltimore. He has lately refused a very flattering premium for a visit to a person in that city.

We both think he should be inderdicted all venereal pleasures. Some of the worst cases I have known of urinary diseases have arisen from an excessive indulgence in them.

From the great success which Dr. Physick has had in the treatment of diseases of the urethra, neck of the bladder,—and the bladder itself, by remedies and operations, several of which are of his own discovery, I feel great confidence in advising M^r Carter (in my separate capacity) to comply with our united advice.

Until an explanation has been made we are afraid to risk an opinion of the exact

Seat or cause of M^r C's disease.—but let it be what it may,—please to inform him (with my respectful compliments) that every thing that skill and attention

can do on the part of Dr Physick, and attention on my part, shall be done for his relief.

From Dear Sir your
sincere and affectionate friend
BENJN RUSH

Dr POTTER
[Addressed]

Dr NATHL POTTER
Physician
BALTIMORE

[Endorsed]

Doct Benj Rush
to
Dr Nathl Potter
Phil^a mar. 6. 1806.

3.—*Benjamin Franklin,*

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on the seventeenth of January, 1706. His father, Josiah Franklin, arriving in this country from England in 1682, engaged in business as a tallow chandler. Placed at an early age in the printing-office of his brother, where he continued until the age of seventeen, acquiring a knowledge of his profession which was his pride in after life. He spent some time in England, where the press he worked upon was found and brought to this country, a few years since. Settling in Philadelphia, to which place he had "tramped" from the City of New York, where he failed to obtain employment, he early took a part in Colonial politics. He was Deputy Postmaster-general to the Crown; also taking an active interest in the military affairs of the Colony; editor of a newspaper; printer of Colonial money, of almanacs and many books which are highly esteemed. Some of his experiments in electricity are said to have been made from the tower of the Middle Dutch Church, in Nassau-street. His career in Congress and as Ambassador, and his achievements in science, need no recapitulation. Turgot, the French Minister of Finance, wrote his epitaph in one line, "*Eripuit cælo fulmen, sceptrumque tyrannis.*" Through the marriage of his daughter, a gifted and beautiful woman, with Richard Bache, he became the ancestor of many distinguished descendants, who from their success in public life, have been known as the Saxe Coburg family: his son, William Franklin, Governor of New Jersey, returned to England as a refugee; but his grandson, William Temple Franklin, retained his affection. He died at Philadelphia, on the seventeenth of April, 1790, aged eighty-four years, and lies in Christ Church-yard, under an epitaph of his own composition.

PASSY June 2 1778

DEAR SIR

I should have sent the Treaty sooner, but that I imagined it would have been printed by the Court. As that has not been done I have had a Copy made out in Manuscript which you will receive with this. It is for the Grand Pensionary. But you will take the advice of M le D de la V. as to the propriety of delivering it at present &c

Your Care and Attention in procuring and Communicating Intelligence to us is very agreeable

I am ever with great Esteem
your most obedient
humble serv^t

B FRANKLIN

M DUMAS

PASSY May 17 1781.

DEAR SIR

Inclosed is the Order you desire for another Hundred Louis. Take my Blessing with it and my Prayer that God may send you safe & well home with your Cargoes. I would not attempt persuading you to quit the military Line because I think you have the qualities of Mind and Body that promise your doing great Service & acquiring Honor in that Line otherwise I should be happy to see you again here as my Successor having Sometime since written to Congress requesting to be relieved, and believing as I firmly do, that they could not put their Affairs in better Hands, I shall ever be

Most Affectionately yours
B FRANKLIN

Hon^{ble} Col John Laurens
Hotel d' Anglerre
a Paris

The Post comes in to morrow Morning from Holland. If you have any information of (further) expense likely to (occur please) to communicate it.

[Endorsed]

Dr Franklin to J L
Passy May 17. 1781
with an order for an hundred Louis

4.—*George Clymer,*

Born in Philadelphia, in 1739; a merchant in early life and up to 1782. In 1774, he commanded a volunteer Corps in General Cadwalader's * Brigade. He was one of the Continental Treasurers; and, in 1776, elected to the Continental Congress of which he was an active and efficient member, acting on the Committee to visit Ticonderoga, Valley Forge, and the Southern States. He was one of the founders of a Bank, in Philadelphia, with Robert Morris, as one of its Directors. As a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, he was very active in introducing and fostering her present Penitentiary system. He was also a member of the Convention that adopted the Federal Constitution; Supervisor of the Revenue of Pennsylvania—which office he held under great excitement, growing out of obnoxious taxes, and at one time breaking out in the Whisky Rebellion—and, in 1796, was a Commissioner to negotiate a Treaty with the Indians of Georgia. He married Miss Meredith, the daughter of his partner, and was the grandfather of Doctor Meredith Clymer, of New York City. He died on the twenty-third of January, 1813. The letters of Clymer, although not very difficult to procure, are rarely found on other than business subjects.

SIR,

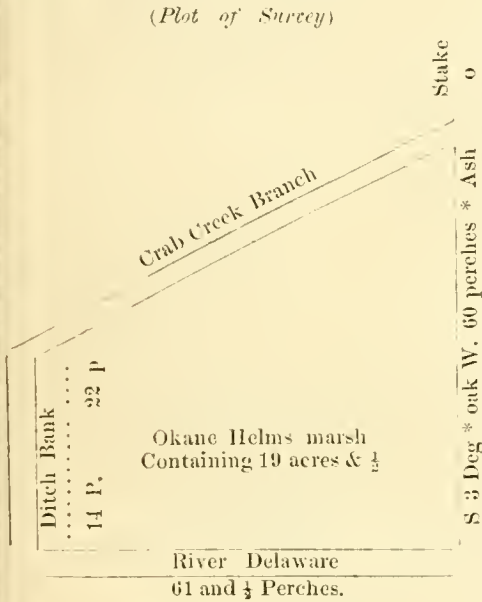
You will be pleased to receive the enclosed draught of the Bank of Pennsylvania, on its branch at Lancaster for 1015 \$ in payment of the instalment of 1000 \$ with its interest, of the bond, given by Samuel Meredith and myself, for the use of the State, the instalment being due the 13th instant.

I am Sir, very respectfully
your obed^t Ser^{vt}
† GEO CLYMER

* Celebrated for his controversy with General Joseph Reed.
† This specimen to be improved.

PHILADELPHIA Aug^t 26, 1807.
Mr. FINDLAY—State Treasurer.
[Addressed]
“WILLIAM FINDLAY Esquire
“Treasurer of Pennsylvania
“LANCASTER”

5.—John Morton,
Born in Ridley, Penn. in 1724, was of Swedish descent^t intelligent, and well educated. In 1764, he appeared in public life as a Justice of the Peace and as a Surveyor laying out the property lines and settling the disputes of his neighbors; he was also, at this period, a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania and Speaker of the House. He was a Delegate, in 1765, to the Stamp Act Congress; High-sheriff, in 1766; and, subsequently, Presiding Judge of the Common Pleas; and a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Province. In 1774-1776, he was a member of the Continental Congress. When the question of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence was to be passed, on the Delegation from Pennsylvania being divided, Mr. Morton's vote turned the balance. After an active and useful life, he died in April, 1777, in his fifty-fourth year. His letters are almost unknown; and the examples in most of the collections are similar surveys to that following; but more commonly his signature to Continental notes.



Surveyed for Okane Helms.
A Certain piece of Marsh lying and being in the township of Greenwich in Gloucester County Beginning at Delaware River in the line of Andrew Helms meadow thence South 3 deg West 60 perches to A post standing in the drain thence North 85 1/2 East 6 perches to a branch of Crab Creek, thence down the s^d branch Traversing the Courses thereof to Crab Creek, thence

down that to the River Delaware the (n) down Delaware to the place of beginning 61 1/2 Perches Containing 19 Acres and 1/2 be the same more or less in the bounds Afores^d Survey^d May y^e 15th 1750

p. mc.
JOHN MORTON.
(Also Continental Note of 3^d April 1772 signed)

6.—James Smith,
Born in Ireland, in 1720, (even then the mother of law-makers) in 1730 emigrated with his parents to this country, and received the advantage of a sound education, which, with his natural abilities, qualified him for positions of control. Having acquired the legal profession, he pushed out into the Western wilderness of Pennsylvania, and finally settled at Yorktown, in Pennsylvania, where Congress afterward sat. He raised and drilled the first company of military associates in the State, who afterwards numbered twenty thousand, and was elected Colonel. He was an active patriot and President of the County Committee of Safety, a Member of the State Convention of 1775, and a Member of the Continental Congress. He subsequently resumed his practice, occasionally holding public office. Although he died on the eleventh day of July, 1806, at the age of ninety, and belonged to a profession given to making quill tracks, let him who seeks them be warned that they are now hard to find.

YORKTOWN Decem^{br} 23 1775
GENTLEMEN

By the last nights post we received the publick papers Acquainting us of the Resolve of the Congress touching the Raising of four Battallions in this Province and desiring the Committee of Safety to appoint the Company Officers and Recommend the field Officers of those Battallions to the Hon^{ble} Continental Congress.

The time limited for the Appointment & Recommendation being fixed to the Second of January it will be impracticable for the Members of your Committee in this County to attend; in this Situation of affairs the Committee of Correspondence for York County hope your Board will not think it improper to trouble you on that subject, well knowing that the great Cause of American Liberty is our Primary Object, & that anything that may tend to forward that Glorious Cause through whatever Channel will not be unacceptable. I am directed by the Committee of Correspondence for this County to write to the Committee of Safety & in the Strongest Terms to request that the Board may please to recommend Tho^s Hartley Esq^r to be Lieutenant Colonel of one of the Battallions to be raised in this Province & in case that recommendation should take place that the Board would please to appoint David Grier Esq^r to be Cap^t John McDowel Lieut^t & W^m Nicols Ensign, of one Comp^y Moses McClean Cap^t Lewis Bush Lieut^t & Robert Hopes Ensign of another Company in the same Battallion with M^r Hart-

ley, & if a third Company should be raised in York County to Please to appoint Bernard Eichelberger Capt or Lieu' as you may think best, If the Board should think this application not improper, in our situation and it should be agreeable to them, the Committee of Correspondence here will exert every nerve in Assisting the Officers to get their Companies filled, in the Most Expeditious Manner with the best men and at the least Possible expence to the Public

I am
Gentlemen

with great Respect
y^r most hum^{ble} Serv^t

JAS SMITH, Chairⁿ
of y^e Com^r York County

To Benjamin Franklin & Robert Morris Esqr
and the Committee of Safety of the province of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia

By the Lancaster post, to
be dld as soon as possible

7.—George Taylor,

Born also in Ireland, in 1716. An emigrant at twenty, he was an apprentice in an iron works at Durham, Pennsylvania, and subsequently erected large iron works at Lehigh, Northumberland-county, Pennsylvania. He is said at one time to have resided in Orange-county, in this State, probably looking for or experimenting in ores. He became both popular and influential, and was elected to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, in 1764, and continued a member for five years. In 1775, as a Member of the Provincial Congress, he was a member of the Committee to prepare Instructions for the Delegates to the Continental Congress of that year. He served but one year in the Continental Congress, to which he was elected. Any writing of his is very uncommon, and difficult to obtain. He died at Easton, the twenty-third of February, 1781.

December 6 1773

Jacob Smetter was qualified this day
as Assessor for Penn Township
according to Law before me

*GEO TAYLOR.

8.—James Wilson,

Born in Scotland, in 1742, and emigrated to this country in 1766. He was a teacher, and afterwards a lawyer, in Philadelphia. He was a member of the General Congress from 1775 to 1778, an energetic and competent Colonel of Militia in 1774, a Commissioner to treat with the Indians of Pennsylvania, in 1778, Advocate-general for the French Government, in 1780, under the appointment of Mr. Gerard, the French Minister, who came out in the fleet of Com^d d'Estaing, a Member of Congress in 1782, and also engaged in the settlement of the conflicting claims of Pennsylvania and Connecticut to the Wyoming section, a member both of Congress and of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1788 and Judge of the Supreme Court in 1789, in all of which positions he acquitted himself with distinction, and died on the twenty-eighth of August, 1798, aged fifty-six years. He seems to have been a copious writer, and a neat and skilful penman.

GENTLEMEN

I beg Leave to recommend to you the follow-

* To be improved.

ing Gentlemen as Officers of a Company in the German Regiment

CONRAD SCHNEIDER, Captain
JACOB STADLER, 1st Lieut^t
JACOB FOREMAN, 2^d Lieut^t
GEORGE HARMONY, Ensign

They are recommended to me from Cumberland; and I am informed will be able to raise a Company immediately in that County.

I am, with much Esteem,
Gentlemen

your very h^{ble} serv^t

JAMES WILSON

Philad^a 4th July 1776

The Hon^{ble}

The Committee of Safety of
Pennsylvania.

9.—George Ross,

Born at Newcastle, Delaware, in 1730. Liberally educated, he established himself in the practice of the law at Lancaster, at the age of twenty-one. Elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, in 1768, he continued a member for several years. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1777. He was a warm advocate of the continuance of the humane policy of William Penn towards the Indians. In April, 1779, he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Admiralty for Pennsylvania, and held that position to the time of his decease which occurred in July, amidst the great grief of those who appreciated his philanthropy and worth.

GENTS

Tis with difficulty I can hold a pen & therefore shall not be tedious

By the enclosed Packett for the Committee you will observe the steps taken in this city towards obtaining an amendment to our present system of Governm^t & we flatter ourselves here that you will most heartily assist. The citizens here mean not to direct & therefore should your county think of any other mode they will be perfectly satisfied. I wrote to you particularly that you might consult on the measures you thought best to be pursued. The Circular letter is left to be directed to such districts as you think proper. For Gods sake & your Countrys use all diligence & get the Memorial signed & sent to us by Express no time to be lost

Yr sincere friend &c

GEO ROSS.

PHILAD^a 23 May 1777.

Also autograph document. Order as Judge in Admiralty for the sale of the ship Thetis &c the prize of Private Brig of War General Montgomery & to pay the avails after deducting seamens wages of Capt James Montgomery to be divided amongst the officers & crew of the latter vessel. Dated PHILADELPHIA 1st November 1776

GEO ROSS

VIII.—DELAWARE.

1.—*Cæsar Rodney*,

Born at Dover, Delaware, in 1730, of respectable English descent. He is stated by biographers to have inherited an estate from his father, also Cæsar Rodney; but in a testimonial letter to his wife, in the collection of John R. Thompson, Esquire, formerly of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, he states that he has little to leave to her and to his son. Mr. Rodney was a member of the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, and a member and Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, from 1766 to 1774. He was a member of the Continental Congress of 1774, and on the Committee that drafted the Bill of Rights. He was re-elected to Congress in 1776, and created a State Brigadier-general and a Judge of the Supreme Court, in 1777, which last he declined. He became a Major-general, and not in title alone, being ever efficient and often in active service, in a Colony ever alert to defend her rights and aid her sisters. After suffering for many years from a cancer, that destroyed one of his eyes, he died from its effects, in 1783.

MIDDLETOWN Sept^r 6th 1777

DE GENERAL

I immediately on the receipt of your letter of yesterday dispatched one of my Light Horse with yours to Coll Richardson, who he fortunately found at the Head of Sassafra, by the same hand I wrote to Coll Gist to obtain and give me the best Information of the Movements of the Enemy's Fleet and have Inclosed you his letter to me on that head. He mentions the rising and embodying of some Tories and Refers to another Letter sent here with. As to those mentioned to be in Kent on Delaware I am apprehensive it must be without foundation because I have very good Intelligence from that Quarter every day and have heard nothing of it. When I arrived here yesterday was informed by a number of people that four hundred of enemy had Landed that morning at Town Point, the furthest Point of Land between the Rivers Elk & Bohoma, I immediately sent a party out that way. The officer has Returned and Reports that he was down on the point and all through that neck and that there were none of the Enemy to be seen. I have a party of foot just setting out to take view of the Enemy about Atkins Tavern, where I was informed they Lye. I had forgot to tell you that the officer of the Horse informed me he took a View of the Elk River and that he saw but three or four Vessels, small Vessels of War. Before I left Wilmington I drew five boxes of cartridges, Could not then obtain a Waggon to bring them. The President promised to have them sent immediately. However by some means or other they are not come. For want of them I am much distressed, not having more than four Rounds, I think the Newcastle Militia now may and hope they will join me

I am Sir
Yr most obedt
Humble Serv^t
CÆSAR RODNEY

[No address]

Also folio official Document signed March 30^r 1779 as President of Delaware. Also folio A D S as Recorder at Dover January 13^r 1774

2.—*George Read*,

Born in Maryland, in 1734, of a family of Irish origin, possessed of wealth and position. He was admitted to the bar in 1753; and the next year, settled in the practice, at New Castle, Delaware; and when twenty-nine years of age had become the Kings Attorney-general for Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex. He was elected to the Colonial Congress of 1774-5-1776, and was a member of the General Assembly of Delaware for 1775. He was also President of the Convention of Delaware for framing a State Constitution; and a member of the Federal Constitutional Convention. He was also Chief-justice of the State, from 1793 to the time of his decease, in the Autum of 1798; and was a zealous patriot and a useful citizen.

His letters are very rare, but those of a son whose signature resembles his, much more common. His grandson, General Meredith Read, now Consul at Paris, resides at Albany, N. Y.

The Resolutions as reported from a Committee of the whole in Convention on y^e 13th June 1787

- 1st Resolved that it is the Opinion of this Committee that [the] a *national government* [of the U S] ought to [consist] *be established* consisting of a supreme Legislative Judiciary and Executive
- 2^d Resolved that the *National Legislature* [ive] ought to consist of Two Branches
- 3^d Resolved that the Members of the first Branch of the *National Legislature* ought to be elected by the People of the several States for the Term of [Two] *Three* years, *to receive fixed stipends by which they may be compensated for the devotion of their time to the publick service* [to be of the age of 25 years to receive an adequate compensation for their services] to be paid out of the *National* [publick] Treasury, to be ineligible to any office established *by a particular State* or under the authority of the United States except those peculiarly belonging to the functions of the first Branch during the Term of Service [of the first Branch] *and under the national government for the space of one year after its expiration.*
- 4th Resolved that the Members of the Second Branch of the *National Legislature* [of the U S] ought to be chosen by the individual Legislatures, to be of the age of thirty years at least, to hold their offices for a Term sufficient to ensure their Independency namely seven years, to receive fixed stipends by which they may be compensated for the devotion of their time to the public service to be paid out of the National Treasury, to be ineligible to any other office established by a particular State or under the Authority of the United States (except those peculiarly belonging to the func-

* Interliniations in brackets.

tions of the second Branch) during the Term of Service and under the national Government for the space of one year after its expiration

5th Resolved that each Branch ought to possess the right of originating Acts.

6th Resolved that the National Legislature ought to be improved to enjoy the Legislative Rights vested in Congress by the Confederation and that moreover to Legislate in all cases to which the separate States are incompetent, or in which the harmony of the United States may be interrupted by the Exercise of individual Legislation, to negative all laws passed by the [several] individual States, contravening in the opinion of the National Legislature the articles of Union or any Treaties subsisting under the authority of the Union

7th Resolved, That the right of suffrage in the first Branch of the national Legislature ought not to be according to the rule established in the Articles of Confederation but according to some equitable Rates of Representation, namely in proportion to the whole number of white and other free Citizens and Inhabitants of every Age Sex & Condition including those bound to servitude for a Term of Years and three fifths of all other persons not comprehended in the foregoing description (except Indians not paying Taxes in each State)

8th Resolved, that the right of suffrage in the Second Branch of the national Legislature ought to be according to the Rule established for the first

9th Resolved that a national Executive be instituted to consist of a single person, to be chosen by the national Legislature for the Term of Seven years; with power to carry into Execution the National Laws, to appoint to offices in cases not otherwise provided for, to be ineligible a second time and to be removeable on Impeachment and Conviction of Mal practice or neglect of duty

10th Resolved that the National Executive shall have a right to negative any Legislative Act which shall not be afterwards passed unless by Two Third parts of each Branch of the National Legislature.

11th Resolved that a National Judiciary be established to consist of one Supreme Tribunal the Judges of which to be appointed by the second Branch of the National Legislature to hold their offices during good behaviour and to receive punctually at stated times a fixed compensation for their Services in which no increase or diminution shall be made to as to affect the persons actually in office at the time of such increase or diminution

12th Resolved that the National Legislature be empowered to appoint inferior Tribunals

13th Resolved that the Jurisdiction of the national Judiciary shall extend to cases which respect the collection of the National Revenue, Impeachment of any National Officers, and Questions which involve the national Peace & Harmony.

14th Resolved that Provision ought to be made for the admission of States lawfully arising within the limits of the United States whether from a voluntary Junction of Government and Territory or otherwise with the consent of a number of voices in the national Legislature less than the whole

15th Resolved that Provision ought to be made for the continuance of Congress and their Authorities and Privileges until a given day after the reform of the Articles of Union shall be adopted and for the completion of all their engagements

16th Resolved that a Republican Constitution and its existing laws ought to be Guaranteed to each State by the United States,

17th Resolved that Provision ought to be made for the amendment of the Articles of Union whensoever it shall seem necessary.

18th Resolved that the Legislative Executive and Judiciary Powers within the several States ought to be bound by oath to support the Articles of Union

19th Resolved that the Amendments which shall be offered to the Confederation by the Convention ought at a proper time or times after the approbation of Congress be submitted to an Assembly or Assemblies of Representatives recommended by the several Legislatures to be expressly chosen by the People to consider and decide thereon.

[Endorsed.]

G. Read's
copy Reported Resolⁿ

A wretched policy that which is dictated by fears and apprehensions of *what may be*, more than by the reason of the thing, *what ought to be*. The ruling Maxim of all Governm^t ought to be *Do right and fear not*.

Below, in handwriting of Capt Carr of M^d, (all the rest being in Mr. Read's) "Presented me by "his grandson at Newcastle, 1883."

Also autograph legal document one page folio signed February 1761

3—Thomas McKean,

Born in New London, Pennsylvania, in 1784. He was a schoolmate of George Read, and both adopted the legal profession; and, in 1756, he had become Deputy Attorney-general to the Province. He was connected with both Pennsylvania and Delaware; and, in 1757, Clerk of the Assembly of the latter. He served in the Stamp Act Con-

gress of 1765, and the Continental, from 1774 to 1783, serving as President after the resignation of Samuel Huntington. He held the position of Chief-justice of Pennsylvania for twenty years, and Governor of that State for nine years; and was an honorary member of the Society of Cincinnati. His daughter, Miss Sally McKean, was a celebrated beauty, and married the Marquis d'Elon, the Portuguese Minister. He died the twenty-fourth of June, 1817, aged eighty-four years, having filled a most distinguished part in history.

PHILADELPHIA NOV^r 5th 1806.

SIR

Your favor of the 3^d by Judge Waggoner I have received and am pleased with your caution regarding the mortgage from the President Managers & Comp^y of the Easton Bridge over Delaware. However informal, the instrument will do as a security for the Commonwealth, and I have felt a repugnance to delay the company out of the money or the State out of interest for it, until the mortgage should be more formally drawn and presented.

You may deliver the warrant on the Treasury for the D. 10.000 to M^r Daniel Waggoner, on his delivering the mortgage to you; a minute of this transaction should be entered in the Book of Executive business. We got home safe and found all well In haste adieu

THO MCKEAN

JAMES TRIMBLE Esquire
D Secretary of State, At
Lancaster

—
favored by Daniel
Waggoner Esquire.

IX.—MARYLAND.

1.—*Samuel Chase,*

Born in Somerset-county, Maryland, April 17, 1741; read law at Annapolis, and was admitted to practice, at twenty years of age. He was a Member of the Provincial Assembly; and in 1774, being a member of the Colonial Committee of Correspondence, was elected to the Congress; and in 1776, visited Canada as one of a Committee to negotiate with the people for concerted action. This mission, however, proved unsuccessful with a people who were wearied with a long continued warfare, which had culminated in the struggle in which both Montcalm and Wolfe had fallen a few years before, and who looked with suspicion on an overture promising a renewed warfare. He continued in Congress until 1778; and was in 1796, appointed by Washington, a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, which office he held fifteen years. He was an eminent Lawyer and a distinguished Judge. His residence, a noble building, still stands near the entrance-gate of the Naval Academy in Annapolis. He died on the nineteenth of June, 1811.

BALT^d 2 December 1803

DEAR SIR

My youngest son, M^r Thomas Chase is obliged from ill Health brought on by a sedentary life to relinquish, almost as soon as commenced the practice of the Law. He has been the two last Summers to the Bath and Sweet Springs in Virginia but obtained no relief from his Complaints, which is seated in the stomach, he is advised by his Physicians to a change of climate

and he intends a Voyage by water to New Orleans and will sail from this City on Sunday week (the 11th) in the Ship Comet. He proposes to go up the river Mississippi to Natchez; and has some thought of Making a permanent Residence between these places, if on View he shall think it expedient My son has not mixed and is therefore unacquainted with the World, the knowledge assistance and advice therefore of some gentleman of Information & Experience would be highly acceptable I hope you will excuse my soliciting you for an Introduction of him to some gentlemen in New Orleans. Fort Adams or the Natchez. Your Compliance with this Request will greatly oblige

Dear Sir

Your most obed^t serv^t

SAMUEL CHASE

Honorable

General DAYTON,

Senator of the

By Mail United States, Washington

Document signed, dated 12 October, 1768, one page quarto; and an autograph law document signed two pages folio, dated December 18th 1770.

2.—*Thomas Stone,*

Born in Pointon's Manor, Maryland, in 1743. He was well educated, read law, and entered into practice at Annapolis in 1764. He served in the Congress of 1774 and 1775, and aided in framing the Articles of Confederation. He was an influential Member of Congress, and, for a time, its acting President, retiring in 1785, to his home at Port Tobacco, where he died at the early age of forty-three, in October, 1787. His letters are rare, and like those of Carroll, generally on business subjects. His grand-son, Frederick Stone of Port Tobacco, is in Congress, and probably still uses the "stone steps" alluded to, as well as his ancestor's place in the National Councils.

IN COUNCIL 8 September 1781

ORDERED,

That the western shore Treasurer pay to Thomas Stone Esq^r One hundred and Seven Pounds, Six Shillings and one Penny specie Agreeably to the "Act to Adjust the Debts due from the State per Certificates settled by the Aud. Gen^l"

p. order

ZEPH. TURNER

* T. JOHNSON JR. G.

[Endorsed:]

Rec^d Contents 8 Sept 1781 in Certificates

T. STONE

Tho^s Stone

£ 107. 6. 1

8 Sept. 1781.

p. C^{ts}e adjusted

D^r SIR^t

Be pleased send me from Baltimore by the

* Congress 1774-77.

first opportunity to Port Tobacco 150 lbs white lead ground in Oil for which with the freight I will pay to your store at Port Tobacco on its Arrival. There is none to be had with us and I am in great want which I hope will apologize for this Trouble given you by

D^r Sir

Yr Friend & Serv^t

T. STONE

ANNAPOLIS Sept 17th 1773

P S. If any proper Stones for Steps to be had should be obliged by yr sending also sufficient for two doors

MR ROBERT CHRISTIE JUN
BALT : TOWN

Also a L. S. one page quarto, dated PORT TOBACCO, Nov. 18, 1776, with signature inserted ; and a small A. D. S., dated Sept. 8, 1781.

J.—William Paca,

Born at Wye Hall, Maryland, in 1740. He was liberally educated, and graduated creditably at Philadelphia College. He was admitted to the bar in 1761, and elected to the Provincial Assembly. Served in Congress, from 1774 to 1779; and as Chief Judge of the Superior Court, in 1778; Governor of Maryland, in 1782, which position he held for a year, and then retired to private life, and died in 1799, aged sixty. A parcel of his letters, until then scarce, "turned up" in Baltimore, a few years since, and supplied many wants.

IN COUNCIL AUGUST 4, 1786.

£ 50.—

ORDERED that the western shore Treasurer pay to William Paca Esq^r Fifty pounds Current Money for one Quarter's Salary as a member of the Council due the 2^d instant.

By order

T. JOHNSON JR. G

C. RICHMOND Aud. Gen^l.

Rd the above

W^m PACA

SIR

We have been honored with your Excellency's letter in reference to Capt. Mitchell. As we have no Council at this Time & Capt Mitchell cannot wait until our meeting on Friday next we could give him no positive Assurances of an appointment to one of our Barges especially as previous applications have been made by others.

We shall always be happy to pay attention to your Excellency's recommendations, and are

With Sentiments of

Respect & Regard

Your Excell^y's

Most Obedt Hble Serv^{ts}.

* MAT TILGHMAN

W^m PACA

TALBOT COURT HOUSE

17 July 1781

[Addressed.]

His Excellency

THOMAS SIM LEE Esqr

Governor of Maryland.

IN COUNCIL ANNAPOLIS 11 Octo 1783

SIR

We are informed by Capt Magruder of the Guard over the Magazine at Frederickstown that the greater part of the men under his Command are discharged having served the time for which they were enlisted. Thinking it necessary still to keep Guard there we request you will furnish men for that purpose from those under your Command We presume that men from the Corps of Invalids may be ordered on this Duty

With much Respect

We are Sir

Yr most obedt Serv^t

W^m PACA

Major WARDMAN

Commanding the Continental Troops

FREDERICKS TOWN.

Also a small A. D. S. dated Aug 4 1786.

J.—Charles Carroll of Carrollton,

Born September 20, 1737, of a family of Irish origin. At the age of eight years, he was sent to the Jesuit College of St. Omer, where he remained until 1751; and, subsequently, to the College of Louis le Grand, where he graduated in 1754. He commenced the study of law at Bourges, and continued it at Paris and London. After eight years residence at the latter place, he returned to Annapolis, Maryland, an accomplished gentleman; and was soon after, immersed in the cause of Independence. Under the signature of FIRST CITIZEN, he entered into a controversy with Mr. Dulany, a prominent and able colonist, the representative of the Lords Proprietors. Like Lewis Morris, and others, who were men of wealth, before the Revolution, Mr. Carroll was incited to this course, by the truest patriotism. Among the many public duties he performed, was a mission to Canada, to propitiate the French habitants to common action, in which he was accompanied by his kinsman Bishop Carroll. After living for many years, to enjoy the government he had helped to create, he died the last of the Signers, on the fourteenth of November, 1832. His grandson Hon. John Carroll, now a Senator in Maryland, spends a portion of the year in this city with his father-in-law, Royal Phelps Esq. Mr. Carroll's letters, of late date on business subjects, are common.

11 August 1772

SIR

The letter from your brother which accompanies this was delivered to me yesterday by Mr. Cromwell. I waited on Mr. Johnson this morning and he tells me that he thinks Cromwell is undoubtedly entitled to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the land & therefore will be entitled to the profits of those thirds. Cromwell from what he threw out yesterday in conversation with me on this Subject would I believe take £ 4 currency per acre I really think the Company would do well to pay him that price &

* Congress in 1774-77.

the costs of suits provided he will give up all claim to the profits on his two thirds on receiving the price aforesaid. I wish you would talk with Cromwell on this business and persuade him to wait Mr. Bar^t Carroll's arrival, who is daily expected. You may perhaps remember the appeal from the sentence of the Provincial Court was brought with a view to gain time to compromise matters with Cromwell & it was then proposed & talked of among us to entrust some one to treat with Cromwell for his land on behalf of the Company. I hope you have your health better
 Sr Yr most humble serv^t

CH CARROLL OF CARROLLTON

To WALTER DULANY Esq

[Endorsed] 1772 August 11

Ch Carroll of Carrollton letter to the Compy relative to Oliver Cromwell.

Also A L S two pages, quarto, dated Annapolis, 17, March, 1791; a small A L S, dated May 18, 1774; and an A L S one page, quarto, of his father, dated Oct 31, 1770.

X.—VIRGINIA.

IN COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

YORK TOWN

May 14th 1778

Sir

Your several Favours of Oct^r 6th Nov^r 27th & Dec^r 8th were delivered to us on the 2^d Instant, the Dispatches by M^r Deane and those by Cap^t Young arriving on the same Day. We had before received your short Letter of the 11th of June, but are yet without that of the 29th of July, in which you had informed us "at large of your proceedings in Prussia." Its contents would have proved highly agreeable to us in those Months when we were quite uninformed of the proceedings & prospects of your Colleagues at Paris. Impressed with a sense of the value of the King of Prussia's "warmest wishes for our Success" we give assurance of equal wishes in Congress for that Monarch's prosperity: We have little Doubt of open Testimonies of his majesty's Friendship in Consequence of the late Decision of the King of France.

Your Information in Regard to our Connection with the fictitious House of Hortales & C^o is more explicit than any we had before received, but we further expect that all Mystery should be removed: Sure that there cannot now be occasion for any, if there ever was, for Half of the past.

Our Commercial Transactions will very speedily be put under the Direction of a Board consisting of Persons not members of Congress, it being impracticable for the same Men to conduct the deliberative and executive Business of the Continent now in its great Increase.

HIS. MAG. VOL. IV. 18.

It has been next to impossible to make Remittances for many months from the Staple Colonies the coasts of which have been constantly infested by numerous and strong Cruisers of the Enemy. We hope the Alliance of Maritime powers with us will remove our Embarrassments and give us opportunity to carry into Effect our hearty Wishes to maintain the fairest commercial Reputation.

There will be great Impropriety in our making a different Settlement for the Supplies received from Spain from that which we make in Regard to those received from France. We are greatly obliged to the Friends who have exerted themselves for our Relief, and wish you to signify our Gratitude upon every proper Opportunity. But having promised to make Remittances to Hortales for the prime Cost, Charges Interest & usual mercantile Commission upon whatever is justly due to that House, we must keep the same Line with Gardoqui. On the one Hand, we would not willingly give Disgust by slighting princely Generosity nor on the other submit to unnecessary Obligations.

The Unanimity with which Congress has ratified the Treaties with France and the general glad acceptance of the Alliance by the people of these States must shock Great Britain who seems to have thought no Cruelty from her would destroy our great Partiality in her Favor. What plan she will adopt in consequence of her Disappointment Time only can discover. But we shall aim to be in a position either to negotiate honorable peace or continue this just War.

We stand in need of the advice and assistance of all our Friends in the matter of Finance; as the Quantity of our Paper Currency necessarily emitted has produced a Depreciation which will be ruinous if not very quickly checked. We have encouraging accounts of the Temper of the Hollanders of late and expect we may find Relief from that Quarter among others.

A few weeks if not a few Days must produce fruitful subject for another Letter when we shall in our Line of Duty renew our assurances of being

With great Regard

Sir

Your affectionate
 humble Servants
 RICHARD HENRY LEE
 * JAMES LOVELL
 ROBT MORRIS

Hon^r ARTHUR LEE Esq^r.

[Endorsed]

This letter is in the handwriting of James Lovell.—The signatures are autographic. R. H. Lee.

* Congress, 1776-82.

1.—Richard Henry Lee,

Born in Westmoreland-county, Virginia, the twentieth of January, 1732. He was educated at Wakefield, in Yorkshire, and was a man of literary accomplishments and positive character. He organized the first association opposed to the oppressive measures of the Crown, and was an active member of the first "Committee of Correspondence," a Colonel of the Militia raised for public defence, and in the Continental Congress in 1774, and was the first to introduce a resolution for a separation. He was for a time President of Congress, and one of its most active members, serving on various important committees. He retired from Congress in 1784, and was appointed first Senator for Virginia, under the new Constitution. His letters are generally full of interest and consistent with his reputation as a zealous and hard-working patriot. He died the nineteenth of June, 1794.

PHILADELPHIA 26th May 1777

MY DEAR SIR

Finding by your letter of this post to your brother that you suppose I have been negligent in my correspondence with you my chief purpose here is to remove that charge. I do not remember which of us is debtor on the letter score but as far as I do recollect I think I was the writer not the Receiver of the last letter. However this may be it appeared the less necessary to me to write as I knew Mr Page furnished you with regular intelligence of what passed in the war department besides which I had nothing worth troubling you with or calling my attention from the busy scene around me.

I observe in the Gazette your call upon our countrymen to apply some of their attention to the business of philosophy. Your reasoning is just and I hope will have its due weight. I am sure that some amongst us have abundant necessity both for the study and the practice of the moral part of that noble science. If this had been better learned such an industrious attempt to injure my reputation in the opinion of my Countrymen would not have taken place. It has been a wicked industry, the most false and the most malicious that the deceitful heart of man ever produced. I am not on my own account affected with the malice of my enemies because I have long panted for retirement from the most distressing pressure of business that I ever had conception of. But my principal concern arises from the dreadful example my case presents to cool the ardour of patriotism and prevent the sacrifice of private ease to public service. I ought at least to have been heard in my defence, But Sir, I will not trouble you with my feelings

The enemies expected reinforcements from Europe have not yet arrived in consequence of which our Army in Jersey outnumbers theirs considerably but since they do expect 8 or 10,000 men from beyond the Atlantic and may bring the greatest part of their force round from Canada in order to make one last dying effort it behooves us to be prepared to meet the desperate designs of desperate men. If no disappointment takes place when their whole force is col-

lected I do not think they will be so strong as when the field was taken last year and the American Army promises to be much more formidable. Skirmishing still continues and still we keep the superiority in as much as by the late manœuvres of the enemy it seems not improbable that they intend to quit Jersey soon. They paid severely for their provision destroying excursion to Danbury where besides their disgraceful flight they did not lose less than 450 or 500 men killed & wounded. Governor Tryon, late a Major General, and Col^l Wolcott are both dead of the wounds they received in that chase. The last accounts from York tell us that the British officers look grave and say all hope of conquering America but by disuniting it is now lost. Great efforts will be made this year for that purpose, and no act or expense omitted to obtain by fraud what force has failed to procure, the Court favorite "Seduction of America." We hear that in the West Indies French Privateers abound under Continental Commissions which I think cannot fail to procure war if Great Britain is not dead to every feeling except resentment for the virtue of their once affectionate brethren and fellow subjects. The enclosed pamphlet is well written and will I hope amuse you. Be pleased to give my brother Thom the reading of it when you have finished it.

Adieu my dear sir, I am your affectionate kinsman

RICHARD HENRY LEE

I hope to see you ere long in Williamsburg,

[Addressed:]

HENRY JOHN PAGE esquire
at Williamsburg in
Virginia

PHILADELPHIA March 25 1792

MY DEAR SIR

I think you are a letter in my debt however that is a trifle amongst friends, and perhaps it might have been many more if my time had not been most laboriously engaged with Congressional affairs and most of all with the Representatives bill. It was an endless work almost to pursue thro the various detours and meandering in this business. The bill has finally passed the 2 houses by which Virginia has 21 members & Kentucky 2—but 6 Eastern States have one apiece more than they ought Jersey & Delaware the same, and N & S Carolina each 1 more also than these States would any of them have had if the plain Constitutional mode had been pursued of dividing the number of people in each State respectively by the agreed ratio of 30,000. But by a certain Arithmetico political Sophistry on arrangement of 6 to 2 in favor of the North against the South has been made of the 8 members gained by this Sophism. They first divide

the whole or aggregate number of the people in the U S by 30,000 which produces 120 members instead of 112 which would have come from dividing the people in each State by 30,000 leaving large fractions with some States. After having obtained 120 members they apply different ratios to different States so as to give one Member for that ratio which in each should approach nearest to 1 for 30,000 and leaving smaller fractions. This ingenious theory may hereafter change when the fractional application shall be found to benefit the South as now it does the North. For then it may appear improper, tho now it does not to change a real into a virtual representation so far as fractions are employed. This Bill went by a majority of 1 in the Senate and 2 in the H of R three of the members of the latter against it being sick or out of the way. I do apprehend however that when a full representation comes into the two Houses after the next election, that all this arithmetical sophistry will vanish before truth and the Constitution as Mists are dispersed by the rising Sun. This Bill, that for the frontier and the Post Office bill being past and the Militia and Coinage Bills in great forwardness we may rise by the middle of April which will give time enough for the Ways & Means bill. But I fear the Speculators will agitate a fresh assumption which they are very intent upon but which hitherto they have not ventured to bring forth from out of the Treasury Report. Gen Knox told us the other day that the extra pay of our Militia the last year would be all allowed except about 250 dollars which would require legislative provision, and that he thought it would be worth while to apply for it. The list of claims remain yet with Col Davis who has waited for a bill now passed for removing the limitation law two years to come, which will let in the greater part of them. Such a one founded on ideas not warranted by the former Acts of Congress, the Legislature will not now open a door for the admission of, apprehending a great increase of the public debt thereby. The Military Claim of Land south of Ohio yet lays before the house of Representatives and I fear that the violation of an Indian Treaty in the present critical State of Indian affairs will prevent anything effectual from being now done in that business. A prodigious shock has lately assailed the speculators and Stocks of all kinds wonderfully fallen, but I fancy the spirit will soon again revive for I see that 26/8 is now offered for 6 per cents payable and deliverable in January next. An amazing profit this to those who have money, for at this moment the same 6 per cents may be purchased for 21/9 and sold directly again with 9 months credit for 26. Who shall be Commander in Chief of the Western Expedition is now a matter of Town Talk. They say it will lay be-

tween yourself, Gen Putnam, Gen Pinckney & Gen Wayne; nothing transpires from the Cabinet, your friends are clear for you but each has his Partisans. I do not know where to direct the enclosed so that it may soon reach my brother, and I wish him to get it quickly as possible. I have therefore taken the liberty of enclosing it to you and request that you will have the goodness to contrive it to him with all the expedition in your power.

I am with great affection

Yours sincerely

RICHARD HENRY LEE

Remember me cordially to my friends in Richmond among whom I count particularly Mr Marshall, the Treasurer & Mr Harvey with Col Carrington.

(To Major Gen Henry Lee

Richmond Va)

Also folio official document dated Aug 17 1785 and signed as President of Congress

2.—George Wythe,

Born in Elizabeth-county, Virginia, in 1726. Fully prepared by previous education, he entered the practice of the law, in 1757, showing from the outset his distinguished ability. As a member of the House of Burgesses he participated in Patrick Henry's bold stand for freedom. A member of the Continental Congress, in 1775, he joined in the action of the following year. A delegate to the Convention to form a Constitution for the United States, it will be seen that he was compelled to retire, from domestic affliction. He was also Chancellor of the State of Virginia. Late in life, being deprived of the use of his right hand, he learned to print with wonderful clearness with his left. There was a suspicion of fool play in the death of Mr. Wythe, which occurred on the eighth of June, 1806, in his eighty-first year, a near relative being charged with the crime, and acquitted.

G. Wythe to Mr. Randolph.

Mr W's state of health is so low and she is so emaciated, that my apprehensions are not a little afflicting and if the worst should not befall, she must linger i fear a long time, in no other circumstances would i withdraw from the employment, to which i had the honour to be appointed, but as probably i shall not return to Philadelphia if, sir, to appoint one in my room be judged advisable i herby authorize you to consider this letter as a resignation, no less valid than a solemn act for that express purpose, my best wishes attend you and the other most respectable personages with whom i was thought worthy to be associated

WILLIAMSBURG 16 of June 1787

[Addressed]

HON EDMUND RANDOLPH

a deputy from Virginia to

the Convention

PHILADELPHIA

3.—*Thomas Jefferson,*

Born at Shadwell, Virginia, the second of April, (o.s.) 1743. He inherited the estate of Monticello from his father, and made it famous as his home. It is only necessary to say of so well known a character, that he drafted the Declaration of Independence, and after holding many important offices, including that of President of the United States, accepted from a sense of duty that of Justice of the Peace. He went to his rest, at the age of eighty-four, on the anniversary of the crowning act of his greatness, the fourth of July, 1826, leaving his biography as patriot, statesman, philosopher, author and diplomatist, written in the memory of the people.

PHILADELPHIA Oct 31 1775

DEAR PAGE

We have nothing new from England or the camp before Boston, by a private letter this day to a gentlemen of Congress from General Montgomery we learn that our forces before St John's are 4000 in number besides 500 Canadians the latter of whom have repelled with great intrepidity three different attacks from the fort. We apprehend it will not hold out much longer as Mons^r St Luc de la Corne and several other principal inhabitants of Montreal who have been our great enemies have offered to make terms. This St. Luc is a great Seigneur amongst the Canadians and almost absolute with the Indians, he has been our most bitter enemy, he is acknowledged to be the greatest of all scoundrels, to be assured of this I need only to mention to you that he is the ruffian who when during the late war Fort William Henry was surrendered to the French & Indians on condition of saving the lives of the garrison had every soul murdered in cold blood. The check which the Canadians received at first is now wearing off, they were made to believe we had an army of 15,000 men going there, this put them in high spirits but when they saw Montgomery with but 2700 they were thunder-struck at the situation they had brought themselves into, however when they found even this small armament march boldly to invest St John's & put a good face on the matter they revived, & the recruits since have contributed to inspire them more.

I have set apart nearly one day in every week since I came here to write letters, notwithstanding this I never had received the scrip of a pen from any mortal breathing, I should have excepted too lines from Mr Pendleton to desire me to buy him 24 lb of wire from which I concluded he was alive. I speak not this for you from whom I would not wish to receive a letter till I know you can write one without injury to your health, but in future as I must be satisfied with information from my colleagues that my country still exists, so I am determined to be satisfied also with their epistolary communications of what passes within our knowledge

Adieu, Dear Page

DELEND A EST NORFOLK

[Addressed]

To

The honorable
JOHN PAGE esqr
Williamsburgh

[Memo for answer endorsed]

I, D^r Forces *
present station
Our Plan
Powder and arms
Skirmishes

IN COUNCIL December 21st 1780

SIR

I have received authority from the Legislature to provide cloathing and blankets for the troops by seizing the same which will be accompanied by endeavors to purchase. Agents are out procuring salted beef and others setting out to procure pork in as large quantities as they are to be had to be stored on the Roanoke and its navigable waters. Ten thousand barrels of flour will certainly be provided, the number of waggons which have been delivered to the Continental Q. M. since the date of Gen Gates' requisition I have not yet been able to procure a return of, nor the quantities of spirits delivered to the continental commissary, considerable deliveries of both articles have been made. Any other measures which may have been taken by the Assembly for further compliance with the requisitions of Gen^l Green are yet uncommunicated to me, as arms were never among the requisitions made by Congress on the several states, this state never supposed it would be expected they should provide that article for their quota of Continental troops, they have only had in view to procure from time to time so many as might arm their militia when necessity required the calling them into service, from this stock they have furnished arms for Continental use till it is so reduced that they have not the smallest prospect of being able from the State magazines to spare as many as will arm their new Continental Levies

I am with great respect sir,

Your mo^t ob serv^t

TH JEFFERSON

PARIS Aug 9 1786.

SIR

I have duly received the honour of your Excellency's letter of May 17 1786, on the subject of Capt^e Greene supposed to be in Captivity with the Algerines, I wish I could have communicated the agreeable news that this supposition was well founded. I should not have hesitated to gratify as well your Excellency as the worthy father of Capt Greene by doing whatever would have been necessary for his redemption, but we

* Lord Dunmore's.

have certainly *no such* prisoner at Algiers. We have there 21 prisoners in all, of these only 4 are Americans by birth, three of these are Captains, of the names of O'Brien, Stephens & Coffyn, there were only two vessels taken by the Algerines one commanded by O'Brien the other by Steevens, Coffyn I believe was a supercargo; the Moors took one vessel from Philadelphia which they gave up again with the crew, no other captures have been made on us by any of the pyrratical States. I wish I could say we were likely to be secure against future captures, with Morocco I have hopes we shall but the States of Algiers, Tunis & Tripoli hold their peace at a price which would be felt by every man in his settlement with the taxgatherer. I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest respect

Your Excellency's most obedient & most humble servt

TH JEFFERSON

H. E. Gov. HENRY.

P.S. Aug 13 1786. I have this morning received information from Mr Barclay that our peace with the Emperor of Morocco would be pretty certainly signed in a few days, this leaves us the Atlantic free, Algiers Tunis & Tripoli however remaining hostile will shut up the Mediterranean to us, the two latter never came into the Atlantic the Algerines rarely and but a little way out of the straits. In Mr Barclay's letter is a paragraph "there is a young man now under my care who has been a slave some time with the Arabs in the desert his name is James Mercier born in the town of Suffolk, Nansemond County Virginia, the king set him after the first audience and I shall take him to Spain" On Mr Barclay's return to Spain he shall find there a letter from me to forward this young man to his own country, for the expenses of which I will make myself responsible.

PARIS Aug 9 1787

SIR

The departure of a packet boat from Havre for New York occasioning me always a great deal of previous writing I have not been able sooner to acknowledge the receipt of your note of June 8 or Warwick's succession letter of June 30 Extract of letter of July 9th to Mr. Adams and letters of July 10 & 12 to myself. Your last despatches to Mr Jay go by the Packet boat which sails to-morrow, as these vessels sail regularly the following days Feb 10 Mar 25 May 10 June 25 Aug 10 Sept 25 Nov 10 Dec 25 you will always be able to avail yourself of them for your despatches only taking care that they reach me four days beforehand, I commit my packet always to a trusty passenger, so that it never enters a post office. I communicated to Mr Adams the information that Mr Grand re-

fused all further advances for your Treasury board till he should receive remittances from them.—from America there is nothing new or very interesting. The Federal Convention is sitting at Philadelphia, General Washington being President of it. Their proceedings will not be made known till they rise, so many of the Members of Congress are of that body, that Congress could not continue its Sessions, they have therefore adjourned for some weeks. Your affairs and those of your neighbors now occupy all tongues & minds, whether they will produce a general war or not seems still undecided I had the honour to renew the assurances of esteem & respect with which, I am sir your most obedient & most humble servant

TH JEFFERSON

MR DUMAS

MONTICELLO Jan. 2. 18.

SIR

I am but recently returned from my journey to the neighborhood of the Peaks of Otter, and find here your favors of Nov 23 & Dec. 9. I have therefore to thank you for your meteorological table and the Correction of Col^l Williams's altitudes of the mountains of Virginia, which I had not before seen; but especially for the very able extract on Barometrical measures the precision of the calculations, and soundness of the principles on which they are founded furnish, I am satisfied, a great approximation towards truth, and raise that method of estimating heights to a considerable degree of rivalship with the trigonometrical, the last is not without some sources of inaccuracy. As you have truly stated the admeasurements of the base is liable to errors which can be rendered insensible only by such degrees of care as have been exhibited by the mathematicians who have been employed in measuring degrees on the surface of the earth. The measure of the angles, by the wonderful perfection to which the graduation of instruments has been brought by a Bird, a Ramsden, a Troughton, removes nearly all distrust from that operation; and we may add that the effect of refraction, rarely worth notice in short distances, admits of correction by well established laws. These sources of error once reduced to be insensible, their geometrical employment is certainly itself, no two men can differ on a principle of trigonometry—not so, as to the theories of Barometrical mensuration. on these have been great differences of opinion, and among characters of just celebrity. Dr. Halley reckoned 1-10 l. of mercury equal to 90f. of altitude of the atmosphere: Derham thought it equal to something less than 90 f. Cassini's tables to 24° of the Barometer allowed 676 toises of altitude, Mariote's to the same

544 toises Scheuchzer's to the same 559 toises Nettleton's tables applied to a difference of, 5975 of mercury, in a particular instance gave 512.17 f. of altitude, and Bouguer & De Luc's rules, to the same difference gave 579.5 f. St Isaac-Newton had established that at heights in arithmetical progression the ratio of rarity in the air would be geometrical; and this being the character of the natural numbers and their Logarithms, Bouguer adopted the ratio in his measurement of the mountains of S. America, and, stating in French Lignes the height of the mercury at different stations, took their logarithms to 5 places only, including the index, and considered the resulting difference as expressing that of the altitudes in French toises, he then applied corrections required by the effect of the temperature of the moment on the air and mercury, his process, on the whole, agrees very exactly with that established in your excellent extract. In 1776 I observed the height of the mercury at the base and summit of the mountain I live on, and, by Nettleton's tables, estimated the height at 512.17 f. and called it about 500 f. in the Notes on Virginia, but calculating it since, on the same observations, according to Bouguer's method with De Luc's improvements, the result was 579.5 f. and lately I measured the same height trigonometrically, with the aid of a base of 1175 f. in a vertical plane with the summit, and at the distance of about 1500 yards from the axis of the mountain and made it 599.35 f. I consider this as testing the advance of the barometrical process towards truth by the adoption of the Logarithmic ratio of heights and densities; and continued observations and experiments will continue to advance it still more, but the first character of a common measure of things being that of invariability, I can never suppose that a substance so heterogeneous & variable as the atmospheric fluid, changing daily and hourly its weights & dimensions to the amount sometimes of one tenth of the whole, can be applied as a standard of measure to anything with as much mathematical exactness as a trigonometrical process. It is still however a resource of great value for these purposes, because its use is so easy, in comparison with the other, and especially where the grounds are unfavorable for a base; and its results are so near the truth as to answer all the common purposes of information. Indeed I should in all cases prefer the use of both, to warn us against gross error, and to put us, when that is suspected, on a repetition of our process, when lately measuring the height of the peaks of Otter (as my letter of Oct. 12. informed you I was about to do) I very much wished for a barometer, to try the height by that also, but it was too far and too hazardous to carry my own, and there was not one in that neighborhood.

On the subject of that admeasurement, I must premise that my object was only to gratify a common curiosity as to the height of those mountains, which we deem our highest, and to furnish à peu près, sufficient to satisfy us in a comparison of them with the other mountains of our own, or of other countries. I therefore neither provided such instruments, nor aimed at such extraordinary accuracy in the measures of my base, as able operators would have employed in the more important object of measuring a degree, or of ascertaining the relative position of different places for astronomical or geographical purposes. My instrument was a theodolite by Ramsden, whose horizontal and vertical circles were of $3\frac{1}{2}$ l. radius its graduation subdivided by noniuses to 30; admitting however by its intervals, a further subdivision by the eye to a single minute, with two telescopes, the one fixed, the other moveable, and a Gunter's chain of 4 poles, accurately adjusted in its length, and carefully attended on its application to the base line, the Sharp, or Southern peak was first measured by a base of 2806.32 f. in the vertical plane of the axis of the mountain. a base then nearly parallel with the two mountains of 6589 f. was measured, and observations taken at each end, of the altitudes and horizontal angles of each apex, and such other auxiliary observations made as to the stations, inclination of the base &c as a good degree of correctness in the result would require. the ground of our bases was favorable, being an open plain of close grazed meadow, on both sides of the Otter river, declining so uniformly with the descent of the river as to give no other trouble than an observation of its angle of inclination, in order to reduce the base to the plane of the horizon, from the summit of the sharp peak I took also the angle of altitude of the flat or Northern one above it, my other observations sufficing to give their distance from one another. the result was, the mean height of the Sharp peak above the surface of Otter R. f 2946.5
of the flat peak 3103.5
the distance between the two summits 9567.73
their rhumb N. 33°.50 E. the distance of the stations of observation from the points in the bases of the mountains vertically under their summits was the shortest 19,002.2 f. the longest 24,523.3 f. these mountains are computed to be visible to 15 counties of the State, without the advantage of counter-elevations, and to several more with that advantage. I must add that I have gone over my calculations but once, and nothing is more possible than the mistake of a figure, now and then, in calculating so many triangles, which may occasion some variation in the result. I mean therefore when I have leisure, to go again over the whole. The ridge of mountains of which Monticello is one, is general-

ly low. There is one in it however, called Peter's mountain, considerably higher than the general ridge, this being within a dozen miles of the North Eastwardly, I think, in the spring of the year, to measure it by both processes, which may serve as another trial of the Logarithmic theory, should I do this you shall know the result. in the mean time accept assurances of my great respect & esteem.

TH. JEFFERSON

[Addressed:] Milton Va
Free 3 Jan'y
TH. JEFFERSON
Capt A PARTRIDGE
Norwich
Windsor County,
Vermont.

MONTPELIER Aug. 2. 16.

DEAR SIR

Mrs Randolph, Ellen & myself intended before this to have had the pleasure of seeing Mrs Madison and yourself at Montpelier as we mentioned to Mr. Coles; but three days ago Mrs. Randolph was taken with a fever, which has confined her to her bed ever since. it is so moderate that we are in the hourly hope of its leaving her and, after a little time to recruit her strength, of carrying our purpose into execution, which we shall lose no time in doing. in the meantime I salute Mrs Madison & your self with unceasing affection & respect

TH. JEFFERSON

THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S.

[Addressed:]

TH. JEFFERSON
JAMES MADISON Jun
to be delivered him
at Fredericksburg.

J.—Thomas Nelson, Junior,

Born in Yorktown, Virginia, the twenty-sixth of December, 1738. Visited England at fifteen, and graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, with Porteus, Bishop of London, as his tutor; returning to America, in 1761, he made his entry in public life, in 1774, in the House of Burgesses, in the Convention of the State, and in the Continental Congress of '75, three almost simultaneous evidences of popular esteem. At the same time he raised a regiment of Militia. Succeeding Jefferson as Governor of Virginia, he commanded the Virginia Militia at the siege of Yorktown, and ordered his own mansion, then occupied by the enemy, to be bombarded. He had the pleasure of witnessing the surrender of Cornwallis, the crowning event of the War. When the once rich lands amidst which Yorktown was situated, were worn out by exhaustive cultivation, the town, so important in history, sank into decay, with only the Nelson House and the Moore House, where the terms of surrender were arranged remaining. In the recent War, the dilapidation was further increased. Governor Nelson died, on the fourth of January, 1789, aged fifty years. The vicinity of his home was twice memorable in American history.

WmSBURG Sept 16th 1781

DEAR SIR

I must request the Favour of you to have Lit-

lepage's Bridge rebuilt with all possible Expedition as the Baggage Artillery &c of Genl Washingtons Army will soon be on that way, Mr Paul Tilman has every material that is requisite & will on that account be a good Person to employ in this Business. If you cannot by other means get workmen & necessaries you are hereby empowered to impress them & you must pay with Certificates. I hope no one will refuse any assistance on this Occasion it is in his Power to give.

Our Army is still in the Neighbourhood of this Place. The French Fleet under Count De Grasse is returned & is joined by the Rhode Island Fleet. Three thousand of the Northern Troops are just arrived in James River.

I am dear sir

Your obedient servt
THOS NELSON Jr

[Addressed:]

"Public"

Col W^m NELSON
Express KING WILLIAM

[Note on outside of envelope from Capt Tilman.]

DE SIR

I shall be glad to see you at the bridge this evening or sooner

PAUL TILMAN

Colo NELSON.

[From Mrs. Colonel Nelson on inside of letter.]

SIR

Colo Nelson is too ill to meet you at the bridge or even to write to you, he therefore desires of me to refer you to the letter on which this note is wrote, therein you will find that the Governour has empowered him to employ you for the purpose of rebuilding little-Pages bridge, as it is not probable he will come out of his house shortly he authorizes you to act with the same full powers that the Governour in his letter has vested in him, Col^l Nelson will send two or three carpenters early tomorrow morning, & he desires me to beg of you to procure as many hands and teams as will be necessary to finish it with the utmost expedition. Colo Nelson sends a letter to the Governour & begs you will forward it by the return of the express.

I am sir, your Humb Servant

September th 20 ANN NELSON
Horn Quarter
Capt TILMAN

OFFLEY Feby 2^d 1783.

DEAR SIR

When the French Troops under the command of the Marquis St. Simon arrived here, the Marquis L Fayette made a requisition for a number of Horses to mount the French officers As their

stay was to be but short it was thought more eligible to borrow Horses of the Gentlemen thro the County than to impress. Among others I lent four, two of which were never returned, but were taken either by the officers or Corps of Cavalry after the Siege of York. The then Executive engaged if the Horses were not returned that they should be paid for which circumstance Mr Hardy probably remembers. I observe that Mr Young the Q M G for the State advertises a number of Horses to be sold next Friday, two of which I should be glad to take in lieu of mine if yourself and the Council think proper.

The valuation of my Horses with my affidavit annexed of never having received the two Horses is enclosed. I shall be obliged to you for an answer by the return of the servant because of sending a person down on Friday.

I am D^r Sir

Your obed^t serv^t

THOS NELSON J^r

To the Governor of Virginia

J. — Benjamin Harrison.

Born in Berkley, Virginia, but at what period is not now known. His ancestors were in Virginia as early as 1640, the year of the breaking out of the English Revolution which cost Charles I. his crown. He was a student at, but not a graduate of, William and Mary's College, and in the House of Burgesses in 1764. He was Speaker of the Assembly, and declined a seat in the Council of the Royal Governor. A delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774, and signed the Declaration, in 1776; was elected Governor of Virginia, in 1782; and after serving two terms, he retired to private life, which would seem not to have been free from pecuniary embarrassments. He was subsequently Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and died in April, 1791. His son, as was the case with Ross, Read, and many others of the signers, bearing the same name, adopted the signature of his father, which requires care in forming collections. When the Union army occupied Berkley, in the late War, the garret was filled with his papers, and being cleared for use as a hospital, they were piled outside and burned by a casual ignorant of their interest.

*In His Excellency Benjamin Harrison Esq^r
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia*

A PROCLAMATION

WH^{ereas} great numbers of British prisoners of War are dispersed throughout the State roving at large without License to the great prejudice and annoyance of the Citizens and Injury to the Commonwealth I do therefore by and with the advice of the Council of State hereby strictly charge and command all Officers Civil and Military to make diligent Search in their respective Counties for all prisoners of war going at large without proper Licenses and if any such be found that they immediately secure and convey them to the Commanding Officer of the Militia of the County in which they shall be so found. And I do hereby further charge the said Commanding Officer that he take effectual measure, for the safe keeping all such prisoners of War, and that he also convey them as soon as it can

conveniently be done, under a proper Guard to Fredericksburg or Winchester, taking receipt for said prisoners from the Commanding officer of the Guard, and transmitting a copy thereof to the Commissioner of the War Office

Given under my hand & the seal of the Commonwealth in the Council Chamber at Richmond this 20th Day of December in the year of our Lord 1781, & sixth of the Commonwealth

BENJ HARRISON.

.....
L S
.....

[Enclorsed]. Proclamation
for apprehending
French & British
Deserters
Dec 20 1781.

1789. M John Graves Dr

To 231½ bush^{els} Wheat By acct Rendered^d
delivered to order 4- £ 16 7.— £63.12 6

To loss of measure by
keeping 20 bush Do 4 0 0.

50 7 0
Bal due M^r Graves 13 5 6
£ 63.12 6

Received the balance Errors excepted
J GRAVES BENJ HARRISON

BERKLEY Mar 2^d 1789

Sir

The above is your acct and M^r Dalzells, his is balanced, and there is due to you £13 5 6. which makes me extremely unhappy, the full quantity of wheat was reserved, and clean'd out early in Sept^r in expectation of its being sent for, but that not being done, it was again clean'd & measured in Dec^r when it was reduced to 546 bushels; every care in my power was taken to prevent it being stolen or destroy'd by rats, but some of my negroe's are such adepts at picking locks and we abound so with rats, that the quantity was reduced as above except 55 bushels which were ordered by Mrs Harrison to be delivered to another person when I was from home, she supposing that so much was reserved for him. I hope my good Sir, you will excuse me on these several accounts for falling short of the quantity, I really could do no more than I did to comply with my contract. The bal^l shall be paid you as soon as possible with interest. I return you M^r Galt's order, if he would have favored me with an answer to my letter written to him in Sep^r informing me that he would take the wheat he might have had it, but I knew nothing of his intentions till I saw the order when you see it was not in my power to comply with it, wheat was reserved for him last year to

pay the debts and the whole quantity except 24 bushels lost to me

I am
Your most ob' servt
BENJ HARRISON

6.—Francis Lightfoot Lee,

Born in Westmoreland-county, Virginia, the fourteenth of October, 1734. He was carefully educated, under the Reverend Doctor Craig, a Scottish Clergyman; and, like his brother, Richard Henry, was an early and consistent patriot. In 1766, he was elected to the House of Burgesses, and continued to sit until 1772, when he married and removed from his constituency to Richmond, which he seems to have represented in the same House until elected to Congress in 1776; and after serving with fidelity until 1779, he resigned, and returned to his home. His letters are very rare, and it is to be inferred that his brother was the correspondent of the family, and Francis in moments of leisure more devoted to his ease than to letter writing. He died in April, 1797, aged sixty-three years.

PHILADELPHIA Sept 4th 1777

MY DEAR COL

Mr Jackson will deliver you a Letter which I wrote some time agoe by Mr Crump, who was stoped at Elk by Mr Rowe. I hope it will arrive time enough for your sugar making business. I could have procured the Sickles at 10s & 12s a piece but the impossibility of conveying anything from hence to Virginia at present will oblige me to hold my hand till I hear further from you. Genl Rowe is now within forty miles of us with his whole force: yet we are in good spirits having our Genl & a spirited army to oppose him. By the papers sent to Col Tayloe (which I know you will have the benefit of) you will see that we have little to apprehend from the valorous and most puissant Burgoyne, we fear he will make his retreat good. If Howe should be obliged to betake himself to his ships we hope the Virginia Militia will prevent his pillaging the Country on his return. Our best respects to Sabine Hall

I am Dear Col
Your affectionate friend & hble Servt
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.

{Addressed}
To
Col Landon Carter
Sabine Hall
favor'd by Virginia
Mr Jackson.

{Endorsed}
"F LIGHTFOOT LEE Esq
Sep^r 4th 1777, No News"

7.—Carter Braxton,

Born at Newington, Kings and Queens-county, Virginia, the tenth of September, 1736, was educated at William and Mary's College, and soon after visited England. On his return, although married to the daughter of the King's Receiver General of Customs, and well with the vice royal

Court of the Province, he early took ground against its exactions. As a member of the House of Burgesses, in 1765, he sustained the action of Patrick Henry against the Stamp Act. As a member of the Convention of 1769, he was one of the eighty-nine members who voted for a convention of the people at Williamsburgh, which meeting selected him as a delegate in Congress. As the successor of Peyton Randolph, he sat in the Congress of 1775. The letters which we extract are principally connected with his litigation with Robert Morris; and have no further interest than as commemorating an unfortunate collision between brother signers. He died the tenth of October, 1797.

RICHMOND June 11 1788

GENTLEMEN

Mr Morris in his letter of May 21st has complained that my answer to his cross Bill in Court was not filed within the last term so as to make your decision obligatory & therefore prays your award to be withheld until Aug Term. But in this Mr Morris will find himself deceived. Mr Ronald my counsel has long since regularly and legally as he says filed my answer in Court agreeable to my engagement. This then will remove the cause of your holding up that award from which alone justice is to be done to my long & unmerited suffering & which will evince to Mr Morris the part he ought to have acted some years ago & thereby relieved me from the distress he has so much contributed to. To the above you will permit me to subjoin the continuation of my account current with Willing Morris & Comp^{rs} with Robert Morris Esq^r formed on the articles mentioned in my postscript of the 8th of May with the vouchers also, & copy for Mr Morris. This is sent to enable him to finish his reply to my continuation of Acct Current that I may take it up immediately & put an end to all further argument on the subject, if in this reply Mr Morris is not tedious. I hope every paper will be delivered you in a few days. But as we have both offered extracts from our correspondence to support our assertions & as your opinions will be in some measure founded on them I suppose it will in the meantime be proper for each of us to see the others extracts, copies having been furnished by neither

I am your hum ser^t
CARTER BRAXTON
ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY Esq^r

Mr Braxtons respectful comp^t waits on the Gentlemen Auditors. He has now sent the two Ledgers A & C required. They are the books of C B alone. But as it is probable the books of WMB & MB are those wanted Mr Braxton has sent them also with their sundry Journals

The acct of Jack Power Mr B thought had been copied & filed among the Papers. It is now drawn off from a rough copy sent C B by Mr Power in 1783 with a copy of Col^o Claytons receipt for money Mr Power expended of Mr Claytons & which C B agreed to pay to Mr Clayton, Mr Power has still further demands

against C B for what he calls reasonable expenses which will be seen are mentioned in C B's instructions. To satisfy these & M^r Powers other claims for his services under that promise he has actually attached an estate C B has in Scotland & will not relinquish until the whole is paid, M^r B will inform M^r Richards of his attendance being required tomorrow at 10 o'clock

Monday noon

ALEX^r MONTGOMERY Esq^r Sept 1st 1788.

XI.—NORTH CAROLINA.

Refutation of the Convention.

The Association entered into by the General Congress at Philadelphia on the Twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four and signed by the Members thereof was presented to this Convention by Colo Richard Caswell and on Motion was Ordered to be read, and it was accordingly read.

Resolved that this Convention do highly approve of the said Association and do for themselves firmly agree to adhere to the Said Association and to recommend it to their Constituents that they likewise adhere firmly to the same. In full approbation and Testimony Whereof the Members of this Convention subscribe their names.*

W^m THOMSON
SOLOMON SHEPARD
SAM JARVIS
SOL^d PERKINS
NATHAN POYNER
SAM JOHNSTON
THO^s OLDRHAM
THO JONES
THO BENBURY
THO HUNTER
THO RUTHERFORD

JOHN HARVEY
ROGER ORMOND
THO^s RESPER JUN
WILLIAM SALTER
JAMES WHITE
W^m PERSON
THOMAS EATON
JN^d CAMPBELL
JOHN JOHNSTON
JAMES COOR
LEMU^l HATCH

* In reference to this paper, Hon. John H. Wheeler, (the Historian of North Carolina,) writes to its present possessor: "The value of the paper consists that there is no other 'original.' * * * I think there are names more illustrious 'on it, than those sought by you.' (G. Z. the three North Carolina signers which are all appended.)" John Harvey, "the first name, was the Moderator of the Convention; he was called by Josiah Quincy, the Samuel Adams of the South. Richard Caswell was the first Governor of North Carolina, under the State Constitution, adopted December, 1776. John Ashe was a General in the Continental Army—Blair Creek—ancestor of a large and distinguished family. Thomas Burke, a native of Ireland, and a man of letters; Governor of North Carolina, taken prisoner by Fanning and carried to Charleston, South Carolina. Griffith Rutherford, General in the Continental Army—Counties in North Carolina and Tennessee named after him. Cornelius Harnett (M. O. C.) was first and foremost in the cause of independence. The last named, "Robert Howe, was a General in the Continental Army, and distinguished." North Carolina must have selected her educated men for Representatives, for the sixty-seven signatures to this paper, although varying greatly, are with scarcely an exception, fine ones: and generally exhibiting a skillful and practiced writer.

ERGE^d CAMPBELL
R CASWELL
THOMAS PERSON
THOS HICKS
John Penn
M HUNT
WILLIE JONES
B M^d CULLOCK
NICHOLAS LONG
Will Hooper
JOHN ASH
ALLEN JONES
JEFF ATHERTON
THOS BURKE
F NASH
E STARKEY
HENRY RHODES
W^m CRAY
ANDREW KNOX
ISAAC GREGORY
JOSEPH JONES
JOHN HEARING
GRIFFITH RUTHERFORD
W^m SHARPE
JEREMIAH FRASER
JOHN HINTON
A NASH
JAMES DAVIS
Joseph Hayes

JACOB BLOUNT
R COGDILL
JOSEPH BEECH
W^m BRYAN
CORN^l HARNETT
W^m BROWN
JOHN SIMPSON
EDWARD SALTER
JAMES GORHAM
JAMES LANIER
JOHN WEBB
GEO WYNNE
ALEX MARTIN
DAVID STANDLEY
GREEN HILL
ROB^t HOWE

1.—William Hooper,

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, the seventeenth of June, 1742, graduated at Harvard, in 1760, and read law with James Otis. Seven years later, he settled in North Carolina, and soon stood at the head of her bar. In 1778, he was elected to the Provincial Assembly; and, in 1775, was sent as the proto-carpet-bagger to the Continental Congress, in which he also served in the Sessions of 1775-8, and signed the Declaration. During the War, he was very obnoxious to the British, who sought to annoy his family and destroy his property. After the Revolution he continued in practice. In 1786, he served as a Judge of the Court established to adjudicate between New York and Massachusetts, and died in October, 1790, aged forty-eight years.

SAMISON HALL, July 17 1781

DEAR GOVERNOR

I came here the day after I left you and found the house crowded with refugees & prisoners whom major Craig in pursuance of the Cartel had suffered to leave Wilmington. Amongst the rest were M^r Thomas MacLaine brother to our friend & M^r John Huske who will hand you this, the only two of all the inhabitants of Wilmington who have refused to sign a petition to be admitted to a dependance upon Great Britain. This petition was set on foot soon after the British landed in Wilmington and all the powers of persuasion, insult and menace exercised to induce these two gentlemen to a compliance. But their virtue was superiour to all, and they have the conscious satisfaction of retaining their freedom & independance. These are characters that deserve

the notice of their country & such, my dear Sir, as you will honor with your approbation as a man & as a Governour.

Mr Huske who is the bearer of this is the young gentleman whom I mentioned to you as very well qualified to fill the department of a Secretary. What I apprehended would happen has taken place, he has been compelled to abandon his property in Wilmington & all his expectations from trade; & is now turned out an exile to begin the world again. I have known this gentleman with the most unreserved intimacy, for several years, he has been in my house a great part of the time & I pledge myself to your Excellency that he is a Gentleman of the most refined honor & unspotted integrity. You will find that he has a good capacity & that he has improved it by the study of men and books & in proportion to his years has made great proficiency. Indeed, my dear Sir, I think him the most promising youth in the Country, & as such I beg leave to recommend him to your patronage and friendship. His having been in Europe & the West Indies has given him a liberal mode of thinking correspondent to your now & which I know you highly approve. He solicits some genteel employment that may support him & keep his mind employed. Should the Council appoint a Secretary in the room of Glasgow a Secretary to the Council or a private Secretary or unite both these offices I know no one who would discharge the trust with more reputation—I must add as qualifications that will be very useful that he writes a fine hand knows accounts & reads French. In a word Dr Governour, he is my friend & I have the vanity that even on this score he will claim a merit with you. A Doctor Ingraham is here from Cross Creek who informs us that a Militia Capt just from Georgia & a Colonel Murphy from the Southward of this State bring accounts that Marion has wrote that the Reinforcement arrived at Ch'stown is very inconsiderable not more than 300, that the fleet was chiefly loaded with families intending to settle in South Carolina with their furniture & implements of husbandry—merchants goods &c. The Militia Capt affirms that both Savannah & 96 are evacuated. Mr. Huske will give you the most perfect intelligence of the situation of affairs in this quarter, & will hand you a few newspapers containing very little information but which shew the illiberality of a Garrison press & the disingenuous artifices of the British to give popularity to their measures & draw contempt upon ours.

I have sent my son who is amongst the refugees to Mr. Hogg's he will be much honored if you will condescend to notice him.

Armstrong left this yesterday on his way to Wilmington with a flag. I set off for New-

bern tomorrow when I hear that Colonel Clark has arrived: there Armstrong is to meet me with the result of his Mission. I will esteem it a particular favor if you will now & then devote a leisure moment to give me a line. With the most sincere wishes that the success of your administration may be equal to your virtues & abilities

I beg leave to subscribe myself

Dear Sir

Your Excellency's sincere friend

& Obedt Humbt Svt

WILL HOOPER

Pardon the blots this scrawl carries with it, the Ink has been blown upon it & I have not paper to copy this or write another upon

[Endorsed]

Private

Mr. Hooper

July 17th 1781

rec^d Aug^t

2.—Joseph Hewes,

Born in Kingston, New Jersey, in 1739, of a Quaker family. After studying at Princeton, and pursuing commercial business in Philadelphia, at the age of thirty, he settled at Edenton, North Carolina, and was very successful in business. In 1763, he served in the Legislature, and continued a member for several years. He took an active part in calling a Convention of the Colony to send representatives to the Congress; and, although like Hooper, a carpet-bagger, served as a delegate in those of 1774-5-6; and again, in that of 1777, surviving the last election but a few months, and dying on the tenth of November, in that year, and in the fiftieth of his age, and was buried in Christ Church Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA 10th July 1777

DEAR NAVE

I came here this day week the Journey hitherto has not been of any service to me my Rheumatism hangs upon me & for 36 Hours past I have been persecuted with a constant lax which weakened me greatly. I have sold one half of the Patty as also the whole of the Fanny as you will see by an additional acc^t. with Mr Morris enclosed to Mr Smith, that acc^t. must be entered on our Books & the Bala. struck & carried to a new account before any other entries are made against Mr. Morris, you must endeavor to sell the Lottery Tickets if possible and be carefull that no mistake is made in the money. I purpose leaving this City to morrow if I am well enough to ride & proceed on slowly towards Boston, if I do not mend on this Journey I shall have a very disagreeable time of it and perhaps with myself out of this world. Your Father Mother and Sisters are all well. General Howe and his whole army left New Jersey they are now embarking on board Transports but where bound is a matter of conjecture some think they are com-

ming up the Delaware, others that they are going up North River in order to meet Burgoyne at Albany, others think they will go up the East River and make a descent on some part of Connecticut or Rhode Island State on the main, a few days will unriddle this great mystery. they left Somerset Court House (where they had marched from Brunswick) with great precipitation so much so that they left behind them many of their Potts boiling, and some officers left their swords watches &c, every thing is most extravagantly dear at this place you have the prices of some things below by which Judge of all others. my Compliments to the Ladies

I am Dear Natt
yours sincerely
JOSEPH HEWES

Loaf Sugar 10 s p^b
brown do £ 25—P C
Rum 45 s pGall to 60 s
molasses 20 s
Coffee 8 s
Nankeens such as we sold for 50 s. 90 s
Hyson Tea 120 s
Shoes 30 s to 35 s
Germantown col'd hose formerly 8 to 9 s now 30 to 40 s

2.—*John Penn,*

Born in Caroline county, Virginia, the seventeenth of May, 1741. Although his opportunities for education were small until he attained the age of eighteen, when Edward Pendleton aided him, and gave him the use of his library, he made such good use of his time, as to be admitted to the bar when twenty-one years of age; and with the talent and eloquence which accompanied his facility in study, he soon took a distinguished position. He moved to North Carolina in 1773, and was elected to Congress in 1775, and served for three years as an influential member. In 1780, he was entrusted with the control of the Militia in defending his State from British invasion, and acquitted himself with credit. He was out of public life in 1787, and died in September of the succeeding year. It is a singular fact that neither of the Signers from North Carolina were natives of the State, although she gave to the nation such able representatives as Caswell, Harnett, Nash, Rutherford, Jones, etc., in more than ordinary profusion.

HILLSBORO Sept^r 14th 1807

SIR

Inclosed are two letters one I opened not knowing what might be contained in it. The other I was informed contained a Complaint against an officer near Cross creek. I am in a way to get the Regular Troops shod tho' not as expeditiously as I could wish.

General Butler has marched with his Brigade from this place. From the last accounts we recd the enemy have only 400 men or thereabouts at the Waxsaws collecting of wheat, General Gates is of the opinion that Lord Cornwallis intends to return to Charles Town, tho' I suspect that movement will depend on our exertions.

Do Sir contrive some way to procure the Board

of War money, it is difficult indeed to move without oyling the wheels, a thousand little things turn up, trifles in themselves, yet necessary, which require money. My compliments to Mrs Nash

I am Dear Sir
Your ob^d serv^t
J. PENN

His Excell^y
Gov^r NASH

[Addressed]

His Excellency
ARNER NASH Esqr.
Governor of the State of
J. Penn North Carolina

XII.—SOUTH CAROLINA.

1.—*Edward Rutledge,*

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, in November 1749. After receiving a good home education he went abroad, and became a student at the Inner Temple. He returned to home, in 1773 and in 1775, commenced the practice of the law. At the age of twenty-five, he was elected to the Congress of 1774, and served also in those 1775-6. He served with John Adams, and R. H. Lee, in a committee which preferred a prefatory recommendation of Congress, to the Colonies to form permanent governments, and was in 1776 associated with Franklin, and Adams as a commissioner to meet Lord Howe, at Staten Island. Mr. Rutledge also served in the army in 1779 and 1780, commanding a corps of artillery. He was a Senator in Congress; and in 1793, Governor of South Carolina, dying on the twenty-third of January, 1800.

SIR

You will be pleased to fill up a Commission for John White Esquire as Second Lieutenant in the Charleston Battalion of Artillery, to bear date the 4th December 1796—Provided his Excellency the Governor shall have left any blank Commissions for that purpose

I am respectfully your
most obed^t serv^t
ED. RUTLEDGE
Major Com^d
C. T. B. A.

July 8th 1797

[Addressed:]

J. RAVENELL Esquire
Secretary of the State of
S^c Carolina

2.—*Thomas Heyward, Junior,*

Born at St. Luke's Parish, South Carolina, in 1748. He was liberally educated, and, like John Laurens, Thomas Lynch, Junior, and others of the sons of wealthy planters, completed his studies in England, which he visited in 1766. In 1775, he was elected to the Continental Congress, and left it in 1778, to assume the position of Judge of the Criminal and Civil Courts, but spared time from his duties on the bench to perform those of a soldier; and in a skirmish at Beaufort, in 1780, received a wound, the marks of which he carried to his grave. After the capture of Charleston, he was taken prisoner by Sir Henry Clinton, and exiled for

a year at St. Augustine, Florida. He died in March, 1809, at the age of sixty-three. His signature is found on the Bills of South Carolina, and occasionally on legal documents; but letters are excessively rare.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. To all and singular the Sheriffs of the said State, GREETING: You, and each of you, are hereby commanded, without Delay, to attach the Body of Joseph Johnston where-soever he may be found, within your and each of your respective Districts, so that you compel him to be and appear before the Justices of the said State, at the Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Charleston, on the second Tuesday in December next, to answer to William Layton of a Plea wherefore with force and arms and so forth at the City of Charleston in Charlestown district the said Joseph on him the said William did make an assault and him the said William did there beat wound imprison and ill treat and him then in prison without any reasonable Cause and against the Laws and Customs of the State of South Carolina for a long time detained where-by the said William expended and laid out and was obliged and compelled to expend and lay out several large sums of money for his deliverance from the imprisonment aforesaid and other outrages committed on him to the damage of the said William Five hundred pounds lawful sterling money of the State of South Carolina and against the peace of the said State. And have you then and there this Writ.

Witness the Honorable Thomas Heyward Jun Esqr one of the Associate Justices of the said State at Charleston, the twenty seventh Day of October in the Year of our Lord One

Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-six and in the Eleventh Year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

* JACOB READ

Attorney for the Plaintiff

Also a Colonial note for one hundred pounds Currency, dated 10th April 1774, signed.

3.—*Thomas Lynch, Junior,*

Born in South Carolina, the fifth of August, 1749. At thirteen years of age, he was sent to England, where at the celebrated Eton school, and at Cambridge, he was educated. On leaving college, he read law, in the Inns of the Temple, London. In 1773, he returned to South Carolina, to practice law, being described by his grand-nephew, General Hamilton, as "a finished gentleman, a thing very rare in this country at that period and since."†. In 1778, he addressed the people of Charleston on their grievances, and raised a Company in Colonel Christopher Gadden's Regiment, refusing a higher commission, on the plea of unfitness, Charles Coatsworth Pinckney being his captain, and so won the popular esteem as to be sent to Congress to succeed his father, whose health had failed, and who died in his arms at Annapolis. Leaving Congress to serve in the Army, his health failing he returned to Charleston; and with his wife, Elizabeth Shubrick, sailed for France by way of the West Indies in 1779, soon after the date of the accompanying relic, but the vessel was lost at sea. His papers were burned in the destruction of General Hamilton's house, many years ago; and his writings are excessively rare, being, with the exception of Reverend Doctor Sprague's letter, signatures cut from books in the hands of his family, and a few others in the Apprentice's Library (since burned); and even these have been largely counterfeited. It would be desirable for collectors of the signatures to first secure their Lynch and Gwinnett.

THIS INDENTURE made the thirtieth of day March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Nine Between, Thomas Lynch of Charlestown in the State of South Carolina, Esquire and Elizabeth his wife of the One Part, and Martha Savage of the said Town and State Widow of the Other Part, Witnesseth that for and in Consideration of the Sum of Ten Thousand Pounds Lawful Current Money of the State aforesaid to the said Thomas Lynch by the said Martha Savage in hand well and truly Paid at and before the Sealing and Delivery of these Presents the receipt whereof the said Thomas Lynch doth hereby acknowledge and thereof and of and from every part and parcel thereof Acquits Exonerate and Discharge the said Martha Savage Her Heirs and Assigns, they the said Thomas Lynch and Elizabeth his wife Have Granted &c &c &c

THOMAS : Seal: LYNCH

ELIZABETH : Seal: LYNCH

* Congress, 1783-83.

† Letter in collection of Mr. F. J. Dreer.

L. S.

THOMAS HEYWARD JUN

[Endorsed]

Thomas Lynch } Release of an Undi-
to } vided third part of
Martha Savage } the Sugar House Lot

1.—Arthur Middleton,

Born at Middleton Place, South Carolina, in 1743; educated in England, at Hackney and Westminster Schools, and graduated at Cambridge, 1765. Afterwards he made two successive tours in Europe, and occupied himself in the pleasure of travel, until recalled to duty at home. His earliest appearance in public was as a signer of the Colonial paper-money. In 1775, he was appointed to the Committee of Safety in his State; in 1776, on a committee to propose a Government for the State; and the same year a delegate to the Continental Congress, in which he continued until 1777. He was elected Governor in 1778, but declined the position, preferring the humbler one of member of the State Legislature. His picturesque portrait, with the falling linen collar, after the school of Van Dyke, is better calculated to represent the youthful tourist than the more mature statesman. His writings are very scarce. He died on the first of January, 1787, aged forty-five years. It is a singular fact, perhaps influenced by the effects of the climate, that the writings of all the Signers of the extreme Southern States, are among the most rare.

July 25th 1782

SIR

At Sight pay to Mr Josiah Smith on acco^t
of the State of S^c Carolina Five Hundred Dollars

Yrs &c

J RUTLEDGE
+ DAVID RAMSAY
A MIDDLETON

To

JOHN ROSS Esq^r
Philad^a

XIII.—GEORGIA.

1.—Lyman Hall,

Born in Connecticut, in 1761, entered Yale College at eighteen, and after taking his degree, studied medicine. On their completion, in 1782, he removed to South Carolina, but the same year located in Georgia, and entered upon a successful practice. He for some time stood almost alone in his advocacy of resistance, and is said to have been the means of bringing over Button Gwinnett, his future colleague, to the popular cause. He was finally elected a delegate to the Continental Congress from his own parish of St. John, the great body of the people refusing to elect delegates, and although thus informally elected, was received by a unanimous vote, and became a prominent member. He continued in Congress with small interruption until 1789, when he was elected Governor. He died in 1791. His letters are rarely met with, although some fine specimens exist, such as those in the collections of Reverend Doctor Savage and Doctor Emmet.

GEORGIA. THIS INDENTURE made the Eleventh Day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety Between Lyman Hall of the County of Chatham in the State of Georgia, Esquire of the one part and Raymond Demere; of the same place

Esquire of the other part, Witnesseth &c &c &c &c

In witness Whereof the said parties to there Presents have interchangeably, set their hands and seals on the day and year forth above written

* LYMAN Hall

2.—Button Gwinnett,

Born in England, in 1732. He emigrated from Bristol, in 1770, to South Carolina, and two years after settled in Georgia. Through the influence of Doctor Hall, it is said, he became an advocate of the Colonies. He served in the Colonial Congresses of 1775 and 1776. In 1777, he was an active member of the Convention to form a State Constitution, largely suggested its provisions and succeeded Mr. Bullock as its President. Not satisfied with these rapidly successive honors, he aspired to be a Continental Brigadier, and being defeated by General Lachlan McIntosh, he challenged his competitor; a duel ensued, in which both were wounded, Gwinnett mortally, dying at the age of forty-five. Any writing of his is excessively rare; and with that of Lynch, is the wanting link of many collections. The accompanying specimen was sent to a collector by Mr. J. K. Tert over thirty years ago, with the assurance that it ought to secure for him all the (many) specimens he then lacked. Gwinnett resided on an estate, called the Barony, on St. Catherine's Island, where, in an old trunk in the garret, a cancelled mortgage was recently found, by a gentleman, for many years the owner of the estate, which he reluctantly presented to Doctor Emmett, and which is the only specimen that has been discovered, after years of diligent search.

BUTTON GWINNETT	Princ ^l of Board	500
v	Int ^d from 15 th May	
STEPHEN DRAYTON	1772 to 1 st March	
1774		71.13.4
		£ 571.13.4
	Exch * 8 p ^{ce} Ct	45.15
		£ 617.8.4

Rec^d the above sum in full16th March 1774

BUTTON GWINNETT

Cash,	265.1.2
pd Deleгал	309.6.3
My acct ag ^t	
B Gwinnett	43.0.11
	617.8.4

3.—George Walton,

Born in Frederick-county, Virginia, in 1740. From a carpenter's apprentice, seeking knowledge in hours stolen from sleep, by the light of a pine knot, he acquired an eminent position in the Georgia bar and on the bench. In 1776, he was a signer of paper-money, issued by the Provincial Congress, payable three years after reconciliation between Great Britain and America, and probably expected with others their redemption at maturity. An active member of the Congress of 1776, after serving on important Committees, he returned to Georgia, to take command of his regiment of State Troops, and was taken prisoner at the defeat of General Robert Howe and capture of Savannah by Lieutenant-colonel Campbell, supported by the

* Congress 1775-77; and Justice U. S.

† Congress 1782-84; and Historian.

‡ Aid to Lord Stirling.

* To be improved.

squadron of Admiral Hyde Parker, in December, 1778, after being wounded in the thigh, and was confined at Sunbury, a neighboring fortification, also captured, at the time of the writing of one of these letters. In 1779, he was elected Governor of Georgia, again, to Congress, in 1780; again Governor; and, in 1795, Senator in Congress. He died Chief Justice of Georgia, on the second of February, 1804. His son was Lieutenant-governor of Florida, and with his daughter, Madame Le Vert, resided often in this city.

MRS GIBBONS' 5th Aug^s 1773

DE SIR

An indisposition will prevent my riding to Town till Evening, therefore cannot attend the adjournment of to day. I must beg the favour of your making an excuse to the Court for me and that you will let the arguing the matter between Mangum, & Warren respecting the costs remain over until the next adjournment. The Demurrer in the cause of Bugg & Bugg I suppose cannot be argued to day as the same does not appear to be set down for it; without this I could wish it was postponed.

I am D^r Sir

Your very hble Serv^t

GEO. WALTON

[Addressed

To

JOHN HOUSTON, Esq.
SAVANNAH.

SUNBURY 2 JUNE 1779

DEAR SIR

Having been Sometime in Confinement and beginning to feel its consequences in the narrowness of my circumstances I am constrained to make application which, in any other predicament would have been deferred. Being used to live in character and the dear girl with me, the prospects of suffering a shade upon my happiness (traps me).

The fee which Mr. Hawley and myself were wont to receive, at the time I was engaged by Mrs. Young, was five hundred pounds, to be paid at the Commencement of the business, and the like Sum at its fortunate Conclusion. I received of Mrs. Young in earnest forty Dollars, with her repeated declaration of being without money to advance in the stile we were accustomed to demand; and being engaged for her as much from a principle of friendship as from a motive of duty, I as often requested her not to give herself any unnecessary trouble in procuring the fee for me, but advised that it might be paid to Mr. Hawley. Whether it was done or not you have it very much in your power to know. It may possibly appear to you unjust to be called upon to pay the wages for a service yet unaccomplished; and you know the change in Government puts it without my power but I do not think probable that with you it can wear such an appearance, if you

will consider That fees given for similar purposes were not only actually advanced but increased in the progress of the business. That I did everything in my power to render effectual and essential Service. That the cause of my present incapacity arises not from myself, and that that incapacity may soon be done away in the course of very ordinary events At any rate I am justly entitled to a reasonable Compensation, and an equivalent to the then usual retainer. I think in truth just. I have been informed, that since the re-establishment of the King of Great Britains Authority in Georgia seventy five pounds in specie have been paid in satisfaction of a note of Five Hundred pounds in the Georgia paper currency, however let this rest with yourself and I must confess that situated as I am a less sum than the equivalent I have mentioned would be more serviceable to me than the currency, tho I do not consider myself to have any right to refuse what is offered to me

I would have you consider that at the same time I make the application in the nature of a demand I do not mean to keep its payment contrary to your judgement or inclination

Dear Sir I am with great regard your

Most Obedt Serv^t

GEO. WALTON

THOMAS YOUNG Esquire

BEAUFORT ISLAND

fav'd by

Mr Howell

Also a Provincial note for £ 5 signed in 1775, & a small document, signed as Chief-Justice.

IV.—APPENDIX.

I.—NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1.—Matthew Thornton.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Septem^r 20th 1776.
To Nicholas Gilman Esq^r R. G. pursuant to a vote of Council & Assembly pay Nath^l Balch, Simcon Dearborn & David Copp Two pounds four shillings

M THORNTON.

Pres. P. T.

for going to Middleton by order of Court.

II.—MASSACHUSETTS.

1.—John Hancock.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE & GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Yesterday afternoon the Secretary laid before me a Bill which had pass^d the Two Branches of the General Court appointing a time & place for holding the Supreme Judicial Court in the County of Suffolk. The Bill Determines that

* Congress of 1774-77.

the said Court shall be held at Botson on the third Tuesday of Febr^y instead being this Day, and Confines the said Court to one Session only in the year, at least no futher provision is made by the Bill—I confess myself at a Loss for the Reasons that operated to induce the passing the Bill, & wish to be ascertain'd of the necessity of the Bill, which I flatter myself the General Court will indulge me with when I will immediately Sign the Bill.

J. H.

Council Chamber

Boston 18 Feb'y 1783.

V—FINIS.

By His Excellency

GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq;

General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United States of America.

There are to Certify that the Bearer hereof

PHILIP LARWAY, Soldier

in the Seventh Mass'tts Regiment, having faith fully served the United States Four Years and ——— Months and being inlisted for the War only, is hereby Discharged from the American Army

Given at Head Quarters the 9th of June 1783

(signed)

Go WASHINGTON

By His Excellency's command

(signed)

J TRUMBULL JUN^r Secy

Registered in the Books of the Regiment

(signed)

JONAS HASCALL Adjutant

HEAD QUARTERS June the 9th 1783

The within Certificate shall not avail the Bearer as a Discharge, until the Ratification of the definitive Treaty of Peace; previous to which time, and until Proclamation thereof shall be made, he is to be considered as being on Furlough

GEORGE WASHINGTON

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